FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

Vol V No 138 *20 July 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 July Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

AL-QABAS Reports Iraqi-Syrian Meetings in Amman *[Kuwait 18 Jul]* ..... BB 1
Morocco's Hassan, King Hussein Hold London Talks ..... BB 1
Described as 'Very Positive' *[Rabat]* ..... BB 1
Topics of Discussion Noted *[Amman]* ..... BB 1

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

PLO's Qaddumi Receives Message From Shevardnadze *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1
'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Meeting *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1
KUNA Report on Tunis Meeting *[KUNA]* ..... DD 1
Qaddumi Arrives in Algiers for Official Talks *[Algiers APS]* ..... DD 1
Communique Urges Arab Summit *[Algiers]* ..... DD 1

CHAD

President Habre Closes Working Visit to Paris ..... B 1
New Credit Agreement Discussed ..... B 1
Interviewed at Niamey Stopover ..... B 1

EGYPT

'Abd al-Majid Comments on 'Mission' to Israel ..... C 1
Departs for Israel 20 Jul ..... C 1
Reaction to Israeli Remarks on Waldheim Invitation ..... C 1
'Abd al-Majid 'Astonishment' ..... C 1
AL-AHRAM Denounces Remarks *[18 Jul]* ..... C 1
Further Criticism From AL-AHRAM *[20 Jul]* ..... C 1
Mubarak, Husayn To Discuss Contacts on Conference ..... C 2
Libyan Helicopter Crew Confirms Asylum Request ..... C 2
Chased by Libyan Jet ..... C 2
Abu Ghazalah Cites Pilot ..... C 2
Anti-Libyan Front Statement ..... C 2
Sudanese Party Leader Makes Statement, Departs ..... C 3
'Abd al-Majid Meets with Sudan's Foreign Minister ..... C 3
Joint Economic Talks With Sudan Open in Cairo ..... C 3
Sudanese Minister on Trade Ties ..... C 3
Beninese Foreign Minister Arrives With Message ..... C 4
Departs Following Talks ..... C 4
Libyan, Iranian, Syrian 'Personnel' Arrested *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 18 Jul]* ..... C 4

LIBYA

French Break With Iran Termed 'Hateful Crusade' ..... D 1
Opposition Member 'Killed by Mistake' in Rome *[Rome]* ..... D 1
Delegates Marking Egyptian Revolution Arrive ..... D 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From GUNT Leader ..... D 1
Al-Qadhdhafi, YAR President Speak by Telephone ..... D 1

SUDAN

Ethiopia 'Reportedly' Massing Troops on Border ..... G 1
Students Demonstrate in Khartoum, Omdurman ..... G 1
Assembly Hears Premier's Statement on Gulf Tour ..... G 1
Official, Soviet Ambassador on Trade Protocol ..... G 1
Defense Official Nasir Begins Visit to Turkey *[cross-reference]* ..... G 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Prime Minister on Iraq-Iran War, Reflagging ..... J 1
'Not Ready' for U.S. Air Bases ..... J 2
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ship Flagging ..... J 2
Newspapers Hail Nation's 'Diplomatic Success' ..... J 3
French Envoy on Arms Deliveries, Iran Relations ..... J 3
Navy Divers Clear Al-Ahmadi Port of Mines ..... J 4

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Salih, Bangladesh's Ershad End Talks in Sanaa ..... J 4
Ershad Makes Statement, Departs ..... J 4

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Finance Minister, Iranian Envoy Confer 18 Jul *[IRNA]* ..... J 5

IRAQ

Major Gulf Strikes Reportedly To Cease Temporarily *[KUNA]* ..... K 1
Paper Cited on 'Responsible' French Move to Iran *[AL-THAWRAH 19 Jul]* ..... K 1
Reportage on Gulf War Battlefront Continues ..... K 1
Communique No 2,747 Issued ..... K 1
Communique No 2,748 Issued ..... K 1
Iranian 'Heavy Losses' Noted ..... K 2
Communique No 2,749 Issued ..... K 2
Saddam Husayn Gives Revolution Day Address ..... K 3

ISRAEL

U.S. Says Citizens 'Harassed' by Airport Officials ..... L 1
Pickering Promoting Sanction ..... L 1
Beilin To Check Airport Procedures ..... L 1
Peres Reacts to U.S. Complaints ..... L 1
Beilin on Complaints, Response ..... L 2
Antipov To Be Replaced; Group Could Stay Longer *[HADASHOT 19 Jul]* ..... L 3
Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Arrives; Calls for Conference ..... L 3
To Meet Palestinian Notables ..... L 3
AL-ITTIHAD Report on Meeting *[16 Jul]* ..... L 3
Peres Comments on Election Prospects, Soviet Ties *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Jul]* ..... L 3
Tehiya Committee Votes Against Dissolving Knesset ..... L 5
Claims 'Massive' Likud Pledges *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Jul]* ..... L 5
Alignment 'To Foil' Plans ..... L 6
NRP Bureau Opposes Elections, Narrow Government *[HATZOFE 17 Jul]* ..... L 6
Peres, Goulding Discuss UNIFIL, South Lebanon ..... L 6
EEC Protests West Bank Export Restrictions ..... L 6
Approves West Bank Aid ..... L 6
Sharon, Rabin at Odds Over Work at Settlement Site ..... L 6
Building To Begin 'This Week' ..... L 7

Tourists Allowed to Enter India After Delay ..... L 7

JORDAN

Al-Masri: French Break With Iran 'Courageous' *[Monte Carlo]* ..... M 1
Bulgarian Minister Arrives, Makes Statement ..... M 1
Received by Foreign Minister ..... M 1
News Conference Held *[JORDAN TIMES 20 Jul]* ..... M 1
Departs Amman 20 Jul ..... M 2
Sudanese Minister Arrives in Amman 18 Jul ..... M 2
Meets Crown Prince Hasan ..... M 2

LEBANON

No New Information on Fate of French Hostages ..... N 1
French Response to Situation in West Beirut ..... N 1
Teachers Evacuated *[RFL]* ..... N 1
'Maximum Alert' Declared *[RFL]* ..... N 1
UNIFIL Officer Denies French Contingent on Alert ..... N 1
Regime, Forces Struggle for 5th Brigade Control *[Voice of the People]* ..... N 1
Paper Reports Coup Attempt ..... N 1
Antoine Lahd Reportdly Admitted to Hospital *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 18 Jul]* ..... N 1
Junblatt-Palestinian Contacts Reportedly Ongoing *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Palestinians, Syrians Clash in Burj al-Barajinah *[RFL]* ..... N 2
Southern Suburb Comes Under Mortar Attack *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... N 2
Amal, Palestinians Renew Fighting in East Sidon *[RFL]* ..... N 2
Meeting Held Near Tyre ..... N 2
Al-Huss Returns From Visit to Kuwait 19 Jul ..... N 2

SYRIA

Turkish Prime Minister Ozal Concludes Visit ..... O 1
News Conference Held ..... O 1
Further on News Conference *[Ankara]* ..... O 1
Protocols Signed ..... O 2
Gulf Paper Cited on Iranian Response to Al-Asad *[WAM]* ..... O 2

AFGHANISTAN

Najibullah Begins 'Short Visit' to Soviet Union ..... P 1
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Ziaul Haq's Remarks ..... P 1
3 Killed, 10 Wounded in Explosion in Kabul ..... P 1
'Extremists' Attack Leaders' Meeting; 6 Killed ..... P 1
Karachi Says Over 1,000 Soviet-Kabul Troops Killed ..... P 2
Tehran Details Operations ..... P 2
Mujahidin Reportedly Shoot Down 2 Planes *[Karachi]* ..... P 2

BANGLADESH

Opposition Demand for Midterm Election Ruled Out ..... Q 1
Prime Minister Rejects Call For Resignation ..... Q 1
Opposition Organizes Strike *[AFP]* ..... Q 1

INDIA

Spokesman Deplores Junejo's Remarks on Interference ..... R 1
Premises of Defense Firms' Agents Raided ..... R 1
Ex-Minister's Offer To Quit Congress-I Rejected ..... R 1
Singh Expelled From Congress-I ..... R 1
Singh Expresses Surprise at Move ..... R 1
Minister of State for Defense Arun Singh Resigns ..... R 1

Lok Sabha Member Resigns From Parliament ..... R 1
1 Killed, 2 Injured in Meerut; 50 Persons Arrested ..... R 2
Curfew 'Relaxed' for 2 Hours ..... R 2
Police Search Golden Temple Area; 35 Arrested ..... R 2

IRAN

IRGC To Hold 'Martyrdom Maneuvers' in August ..... S 1
81,000 Basijis To Confront U.S. ..... S 1
IRGC Communique on Maneuvers ..... S 1
Further Reportage, Comment on Embassy Conflict ..... S 1
Foreign Ministry on Split ..... S 1
Mohtashemi on Cordoning Embassy ..... S 2
Security Tightened Around Embassy ..... S 2
Musavi on Repatriation ..... S 2
Lebanese Hizballah Condemns French Policy ..... S 3
Majlis Speaker's Sermon on Gulf War, Kuwaiti Ships ..... S 3
Velayati Opposes Proposed UN Resolution on Gulf ..... S 5
UN Envoy Interviewed on Resolution ..... S 5
Tehran Analyzes Past, Present U.S. Gulf Policy ..... S 6
President Khamene'i Arrives in Tabriz 19 Jul ..... S 6
Assails Proposed UN Resolution ..... S 7
Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Moscow, Holds Talks ..... S 7
Larijani Reports on USSR's 'Decisive Support' ..... S 7
Pakistan's Sattar, Besharati Discuss Gulf ..... S 7
Confers With Sheykh ol-Eslam ..... S 8
Meets With Musavi ..... S 8
Meets With Larijani ..... S 8
Discusses Gulf With Velayati ..... S 8
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... S 8
Communique No 2,900 ..... S 8
IRGC Shells Zubayr, Umm Qasr ..... S 9
Communique No 2,901 ..... S 9
Commander on Battle Successes ..... S 9
800 Iraqi Casualties in Sumar ..... S 10
Iraqi Forces Killed in 'Ambush' ..... S 10
Communique No 2,902 ..... S 10
12 Iraqis Killed; 9 Captured ..... S 10
Umm Qasr Shelled ..... S 11
'Horrific' Attack Launched ..... S 11
'Fath-8' Operation Launched ..... S 11
Iraq Suffers 'Heavy Losses' ..... S 11
Kurdish Forces Capture Atrush ..... S 11
Kurds Capture Arms Train ..... S 11
Capture of Atrush Detailed ..... S 12
Targets Destroyed in Atrush ..... S 12
Iraqi Attack Repulsed ..... S 12
1,100 Iraqi Casualties ..... S 12
Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique ..... S 12
300 Iraqi Casualties in Majnun ..... S 13

NEPAL & BHUTAN

NEPAL

FRG Chancellor Arrives; Met by Prime Minister *[DPA]* ..... U 1
Kohl's Arrival Detailed ..... U 1
Meets With Prime Minister *[DPA]* ..... U 1
Promises Further Support *[DPA]* ..... U 1

PAKISTAN

Junejo Links Karachi Bombing to Afghan Policy ..... V 1
Junejo Greets Zhao Ziyang En Route From Japan ..... V 1
Interior Minister Says PRC Condemns Bomb Blasts ..... V 1
Suppression of Terrorist Activities Act Amended ..... V 1
Passports, ID Cards To Be Issued After Verification ..... V 2
President Calls For Political Solution of Kashmir ..... V 2
Bangladesh's Ershad Arrives on Brief Stopover ..... V 2
Holds Talks With Ziaul Haq ..... V 2

20 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD201330 [Editorial Report]

Iran

Break With France — A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio 17 July announced Iran's decision to sever relations with France on account of the latter's "unlawful" actions against Iranian diplomats. The Iranian official stressed his country's "right to retaliate" but did not mention France's decision to break relations with Iran. Iranian national Vahid Gorji "must not become a French hostage," he added, while French Consul Paul Torri "is required to report to the office of the Islamic Revolution prosecutor general in Evin."

The following day Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi accused members of the French diplomatic mission in Tehran of helping "counter-revolutionaries" escape abroad and of connections with Iranian opposition groups, according to IRNA. Iranian police have therefore surrounded the French Embassy, he said, "and the spies will be arrested and handed over to the judiciary for Islamic justice." However, in remarks broadcast by Tehran radio 19 July, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi noted that France and Iran were "involved in negotiations through conventional and diplomatic channels about exchanging the diplomats in question." Paris radio viewed Musavi's statement as a sign that Iran has "backtracked" on its earlier threats to arrest and try French diplomats. Nevertheless, Tehran radio subsequently disclosed that security was tightened around the French Embassy because of Torri's failure to respond to the summons to the prosecutor's office.

The "war of embassies" is linked with the West's "pyschological warfare" against Iran and cannot be separated from what is happening in the Persian Gulf and inside the UN Security Council, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted in a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio. Among other comment on the crisis between Iran and France, the Lebanese Hizballah issued a statement condemning France for "making trouble" against Iran, according to IRNA. Lebanon's Voice of National Resistance radio broadcast a statement by the Islamic Jihad organization threatening the immediate execution of French hostages Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine in response to France's "escalating and provocative" action against Iran. A Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau spokesman cited by JANA 20 July condemned France's "unstudied" decision to break relations with Iran and expressed the Jamahiriyah's "solidarity and support" for Iran.

Gulf Maneuvers — The Revolution Guards Corps announced its intention to stage "massive maritime martyrdom maneuvers" in the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Gulf of Oman during July-August, according to a communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

USSR Relations — In the wake of his Moscow visit, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani informed President 'Ali Khamene'i of the USSR's "decisive support" for Iran's stand against U.S. "plots" in the Gulf, Tehran radio reported. The talks with Soviet President Andrey Gromyko and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also covered the expansion of bilateral relations, the radio noted. Prime Minister Musavi said in remarks carried by the radio that "positive" Soviet-Iranian negotiations are underway on the transfer of oil through Soviet territory and via the Black Sea.

London Bombing — The injury of an Iranian in an 18 July car bomb explosion in London was reported without comment by Tehran radio. London *Press Association* noted that the injured man is a strong opponent of Ayatollah Khomeyni's regime.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes shot down an Iranian F-4 over the Gulf 19 June, according to a military spokesman cited by INA.

Tehran radio announced that guerrilla forces 150 km inside Iraq launched the "Fath-8" operation 19 July. More than 1,100 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the assault, and the town of Atrush in Al-Mawsil Province was captured, the radio reported. An Iraqi spokesman told INA that Iranian reports of fighting in the north are "blatant lies."

In action on the central battlefront, Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 18 July announced that combined Iraqi forces launched an offensive in the Sumar Basin and "liberated" a 4.5-km strip, seizing the most important heights. It was noted that among the air strikes in support of the Sumar operation was a "destructive" raid on six surface-to-air Rapier missiles. A military spokesman told INA that Iraq now has "complete superiority" in the area. The following day a spokesman cited by the agency denied Iranian claims that the Sumar offensive had been smashed and declared that the Iranians had suffered "thousands" of casualties.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah stressed that reregistering its tankers was not intended as a "provocation" or a "call for interference" in the region, KUNA reported 20 July. In response to a question, the premier told a press conference that Kuwait is "not ready" to provide facilities to U.S. warplanes. He said that the international community should be responsible for protecting freedom of navigation in the Gulf and he urged the permanent members of the UN Security Council to cooperate for the security of the international waterway. On the subject of the Iran-Iraq war, the premier noted that Kuwait's "proximity" to the battlefields makes it more "sensitive" to the dangers. He urged Iran to "respond" to UN efforts to end the conflict.

A Defense Ministry source cited by KUNA 19 July announced that, with the assistance of the Saudi Navy and U.S. experts, the entrance to Al-Ahmadi port has been cleared of all mines.

Afghanistan

PDPA General Secretary Najibullah and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev held talks at the Kremlin 20 July, TASS reported. Upon arrival the previous day for a "short visit," Najibullah was welcomed by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevard-

nadze and Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the agency noted.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman "strongly refuted" Pakistani President Ziaul Haq's "slanderous allegations" that the DRA bears some responsibility for the 14 July explosions in Karachi, *Bakhtar* reported 19 July. The spokesman accused the Pakistani president of taking charge of the campaign to "undermine" the indirect talks on the Afghan situation.

In violence inside the country, 3 people were killed and 10 others wounded when a motorcycle bomb planted by "extremist opposition elements" exploded in Kabul 18 July, Kabul radio reported. In Bamian Province a rocket fired by "criminal extremists" hit a theater where local officials and citizens were discussing the draft constitution, leaving 6 dead and 20 wounded, the radio also reported. According to Karachi radio 19 July, more than 1,000 soldiers were killed during a 3-day "major offensive" against "Soviet-Kabul bases" along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

Israel

Egyptian Visitor — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid was received by ministers Shim'on Peres and 'Ezer Weizman after his arrival in Israel 20 July, Jerusalem radio reported. A Cairo radio report on the visit said the talks would focus on promoting the peace process and on preparing for an international conference.

Tehiya Against Elections — The Tehiya Central Committee decided 19 July to adopt a recommendation by the movement's secretariat not to work for the dissolution of the Knesset, Jerusalem radio disclosed. In remarks to the Central Committee cited by *The Jerusalem Post*, the Tehiya chairman indicated that the party's change of position was in response to Likud pledges to begin work on "thousands" of new houses and speed up work on the construction of two new settlements in the West Bank in the next 18 months. He said the pledges mean there will be 100,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank by November 1988, when the next elections are due.

Morocco

At the end of his 4-day official visit to Britain, King Hassan II met with Jordanian King Husayn who was in London on a privite visit, Rabat radio reported 17 July, adding that Hassan termed the talks "very positive." According to Amman radio, the two monarchs made a "comprehensive assessment" of current developments in the region.

During Hassan's absence, four Muslim fundementalists were arrested on suspicion of trying to foment revolution, Paris radio noted 18 July.

Egypt

Emergency Law Revised — President Husni Mubarak has issued directives limiting the application of the emergency law to the "absolute minimum," MENA reported 17 July. The agency cited a report in *Al-Ahram* that Interior Ministry officials have been instructed to review the cases of those people recently arrested under provisions of the emergency law and to release any detainees who are found not to be security risks.

Relations With Sudan — Following an 18 July meeting with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid, his Sudanese counterpart, Muhammad Tawfiq, expressed confidence that Egypt's role in mediating between Sudan and Ethiopia "will eventually succeed," MENA reported. The agency also noted the same day that bilateral economic talks opened. According to the Sudanese trade minister and delegation head, his country is considering an agreement to replace the economic integration agreement that was abrogated after the 1985 revolution.

Sudan

Relations With Ethiopia — A "reliable source" told *Al-Siyasah* that Ethiopia is massing troops along the common border, SUNA reported. According to the source, Ethiopian soldiers fired on Sudanese border troops 16 July, and Ethiopian jets flew along the border 17 July. *Al-Ittihad al-Usbu'i* reported 16 July that the USSR wants to mediate between Sudan and Ethiopia and has prepared a 4-point peace plan to that end. The paper added that the Soviet ambassador in Khartoum said a Sudanese economic delegation is scheduled to visit Moscow in 2 weeks.

Student Demonstrations — Students in Khartoum and Omdurman protested the lack of school supplies 18 July, SUNA reported, adding that several "student leaders" were arrested.

Turkish-Syrian Talk

Following several hours of talks, Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal signed protocols on cooperation in the areas of ecomomics and security, Damascus radio reported 17 July. In remarks cited by the station, Ozal said that the bilateral agreement on methods for combatting security problems will contribute to regional stability, adding that Syria had pledged that no anti-Turkish activities will be tolerated on its territory. Ozal praised the "frank atmosphere" during the 3 days of consultations in Damascus and declared that his visit marks the start of "new and serious relations" with Syria. The Syrian prime minister noted the "positive" nature of the talks and stressed that the resultant "confidence and good will" are even more important than the agreements achieved, Damascus television reported.

Yemen

The day when unity will be declared is "near," YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih affirmed during a meeting with unity affairs officials 18 July, Sanaa radio reported, adding that in this regard the president praised the efforts of all relevant officials and organs.

AL-QABAS Reports Iraqi-Syrian Meetings in Amman

JN191912 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Jul 87 p 19

[Excerpts] Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources in Amman have reported that Iraqi and Syrian experts met at a specialized ministerial level in Amman on Tuesday and Wednesday [14-15 July]. These sources added that Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i participated in some of these meetings. These were held in respose to Al-Rifa'i's recent visit to Damascus. During this visit, Al-Rifa'i stressed the need to adhere to the achievements attained during the last 2 months' contacts between the Iraqi and Syrian sides. He also emphasized that the earlier agreements reached through indirect contacts should be followed.

Earlier, both sides met more than once at the expert level for talks on the security, economic, financial, planning, and trade cooperation fields. The first meeting was held at the Jordanian H-4 base. Another meeting was held in Amman during last month's meetings of the Arab Economic Unity Council.

The Iraqi and Syrian sides reached a security agreement on many points over which they disagreed. They also comprehensively reviewed operations for which each side blamed the other. The talks focused specifically on problems in the two countries' border regions, particularly the Kurdish issue and that of inciting them. This issue involves Turkish-Iraqi-Syrian relations. [passage omitted]

It seems that there are no notable differences between Syria and Iraq on details related to security and economic affairs. All conditions — including Syria's conditions to operate the [oil] pipeline — can be reconciled. However, the problem, according to the political sources, is both sides' failure to reach a political agreement.

These sources claimed that a scheduled summit meeting in Amman between the Iraqi and the Syrian presidents failed to materialize. King Husayn visited Damascus on 24 June and Baghdad on 29 June to surmount the obstacles that emerged in the second half of June. This was after the two countries' foreign ministers had agreed on some sort of a joint communique to be announced by both leaders at a joint news conference in Amman. [passage omitted]

Morocco's Hassan, King Hussein Hold London Talks

Described as 'Very Positive'

LD172042 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Following 4 days of intensive activity that underlined the Kingdom's distinguished role in more than one arena, His Majesty King Hassan II today concluded his official visit to Britain.

Today's royal activities were characterized by the Moroccan-Jordanian summit.

Today at noon, at the conclusion of his official visit to Britain, His Majesty King Hassan II received His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, who was here on a courtesy visit to His Majesty. At the end of this meeting, in reply to a question by a British journalist, His Majesty described his talks with the Jordanian monarch as very positive.

King Husayn, who is paying a private visit to Britain, was received on his arrival at Her Majesty's residence in London by His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid.

Topics of Discussion Noted

JN171535 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] London — His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco held a meeting at the Moroccan king's place of residence in London today. During the meeting, both monarchs reviewed current developments in the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war. They also completed a comprehensive assessment of the situation.

PLO's Qaddumi Receives Message From Shevardnadze

JN181754 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, received the USSR charge d'affaires in Tunis yesterday. Brother Abu al-Lutf also received from the USSR diplomat an important message for the PLO leadership from USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The message deals with the latest developments and stands in the Middle East, as well as the ongoing consultations on convening the proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East. The message also contains a clear and specific USSR stand on an international conference and on the stands of other parties on such a conference.

'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Meeting

JN171730 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee began a session of meetings in Tunis last night. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, is chairing the meetings.

WAFA reports that during the current session the PLO Executive Committee will discuss political, military, and administrative issues of importance to the Palestinian revolution. These issues will be reviewed in light of the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. The situation within occupied Palestine, the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, and the latest Middle East developments will also be discussed.

The present session is the third held by the PLO Executive Committee that was formed following the 18th PNC session in Algiers in April 1987.

KUNA Report on Tunis Meeting

LD191111 Kuwait KUNA in English 0812 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Tunis, July 19 (KUNA) — Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization concluded its four-day meetings here last night during which major global, Arab and Palestinian issues were discussed.

The committee-meetings, which was presided over by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, centered its discussions on the situation in Lebanon, the uprise in the occupied Arab territories, latest developments on the convocation of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East in addition to the importance of holding an Arab summit to face current challenges.

The committee issued a statement announcing the formation of a sub-committee to follow up the dangerous developments in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, particularly in the south.

This is the third session held by the Executive Committee since its new formation in the Palestine National Council's (parliament in exile) 18th session held in Algiers last April.

Qaddumi Arrives in Algiers for Official Talks

LD190952 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, 19 Jul (APS) — Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf chairman of the PLO Political Department, arrived yesterday in Algiers on an official visit at the invitation of Dr Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, who welcomed him at the airport.

During his stay in Algeria, Mr Qaddumi will have talks with Algerian officials concerning developments in the Palestinian issue and a number of current international and Arab issues and ways to develop bilateral relations.

The Palestinian official stressed in an arrival statement that an international peace conference on the Middle East has acquired more international support and that the obstacles to convening it consist in the two odd stands by the Zionist enemy and America.

Mr Qaddumi hailed the unionist session held recently in Algiers and said its effects will be very positive for the PLO in the occupied territories, the Arab countries and internationally.

Communique Urges Arab Summit

LD192337 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Middle East — Algeria and the PLO call for the urgent convening of an Arab summit before the end of the year, if possible. This is stressed by a communique published this evening following talks between Dr Taleb Ibrahimi and Mr Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO. Mr Faruq Qaddumi also had talks this evening with the head of the permanent secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, Mr Messaadia. The talks were devoted to the planned international conference on the Middle East crisis, and of the continuing urgency to hold an Arab summit.

President Habre Closes Working Visit to Paris

New Credit Agreement Discussed

AB070709 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The outcome of the official portion of President Hissein Habre's visit to France is satisfactory at all levels. The head of state has now begun the private portion of his visit to the nation of President Mitterrand. Yesterday, he [Habre] received the military adviser to the French leader and [adviser on African affairs] Jean-Christopher Mitterrand, another adviser to President Mitterrand. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, France has granted Chad another credit of Fr20 million within the framework of its economic aid to our country. This was announced today by the French Cooperation Ministry in Paris. According to the communique issued by the ministry, the French signatory was Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac, while Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou signed for Chad. The communique adds that early this year, a credit of Fr30 million was to granted Chad and that three agreements for Fr15 million each have been signed over the past few months. This brings to Fr95 million the total amount of funding made available to our nation to face its (?budgetary) expenditures since the year's beginning.

The communique further indicates that Minister Michel Aurillac confirmed to President Hissein Habre France's desire to continue its cooperation efforts to support him in his policy of national reconciliation and economic development. Steps are being taken to soon implement rehabilitation and development projects within the framework of the emergency plan for recently liberated regions in northern Chad. This follows pledges made by the French minister during his recent visit to Faya-Largeau on 28 May.

Interviewed at Niamey Stopover

AB191334 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] The president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, returned to Ndjamena this evening following the end of a 1-week friendly working visit to France. During this visit, all aspects of bilateral cooperation were examined. President Hissein Habre held a series of talks with French leaders, notably with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, Defense Minister Andre Giraud, Minister of Cooperation Michel Aurillac, and the adviser to the French president on African affairs, Jean-Christophe Mitterrand.

The president took part, with President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac, in the 14 July parade. He later traveled to the interior of France where he visited, in particular, the St Lazare mechanical engineering factory [assembles military vehicles], located in western France.

As he himself indicated, El Hadj Hissein Habre intended that this visit give a new impetus to relations between Ndjamena and Paris. These relations have always been excellent, for France gives multifaceted assistance to our country — namely, budgetary, military, and material aid.

Celestin, you were on the presidential trip. What should we remember about the visit of the president to France?

[Celestin] We will have the opportunity to give a detailed report on the official working visit of President Hissein Habre to Paris. In the meantime, on our return trip, the presidential plane made a stopover in Niamey, where the president was welcomed by Niger's authorities. Here the head of state also granted an interview to colleagues of the Niger press, an interview that we are now going to broadcast to our listeners.

[Begin recording][Habre] I am on my return trip from the official friendly working visit that I just paid to France. During this visit I had the opportunity to hold discussions with French officials, President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac, that centered essentially on subjects of mutual interest. First of all, we discussed the problem of bilateral cooperation between Chad and France and the various aspects of this cooperation. We viewed problems of concern to us in Africa, especially problems facing Sahelian nations. We also discussed the specific problems of water and desert encroachment and, of course, their consequences, problems facing all African countries, like the African debt problem. We reviewed the question of our raw materials, the problems concerning southern Africa, and general international issues of concern to us and our continent.

I wish to point out to you that the various issues I was able to discuss with French officials (?were important), and I can tell you that my visit took place in an atmosphere of friendship, while our various talks took place in a climate of fraternity. I therefore return from this trip to France fully satisfied.

[Reporter] Mr President, one of the results of this visit is the increase in French military aid to your country. This is part of your great effort to liberate all Chad's national territory.

[Habre] Yes, there are bilateral aspects of this cooperation, notably military cooperation. In view of Chad's peculiar situation, it goes without saying that this problem cannot be a topic excluded from our discussion.

[Reporter] To be specific, reconciliation in Chad was one of the main topics discussed during this visit. Could you tell us more about this issue?

[Habre] One should be aware that in this particular field, various steps were taken. Needless to say, what has been achieved here needs to be strengthened, to be constantly maintained. We are continuing our efforts so that no Chadian will want to remain outside of his country, because Chad needs the contribution of all its sons, the energy and intelligence of each of us. That is why we are striving to achieve this goal. And I can assure you that, at this level, many obstacles have been overcome. We can even (?assert that there are not many problems left to be solved). [end recording]

'Abd al-Majid Comments on 'Mission' to Israel

NC191000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA) — Following his meeting with President Mubarak this morning, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, disclosed that he had submitted a detailed report to the president on his recent visit to Austria and Britain.

'Abd al-Majid said that he had briefed President Mubarak on the meetings he had held in both countries and the support he had sensed for Egyptian efforts to push the peace process forward and to hold an international peace conference.

Responding to a question on his mission to Israel, 'Abd al-Majid stated that he will depart for Israel tomorrow, Monday, and that his talks with Israeli officials will focus on bolstering efforts to establish peace. He added that during his meetings there, he will emphasize Egypt's eagerness to convoke an international peace conference.

In conclusion, 'Abd al-Majid stressed that an international conference is the only way to reverse the unstable situation in the Middle East region.

Departs for Israel 20 Jul

NC200817 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this morning for a 2-day visit to Israel. He will hold talks with the Israeli prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid will also meet with a number of Palestinian representatives in the occupied Arab territories.

The Egyptian-Israeli talks will focus on giving an impetus to the peace efforts and on preparing for the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Reaction to Israeli Remarks on Waldheim Invitation

'Abd al-Majid 'Astonishment'

NC181257 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed his extreme astonishment over the statements carried by some radios and news agencies and attributed to senior Israeli officials concerning an invitation which Egypt has extended to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim.

Commenting on these statements, Dr 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that the relationship between Egypt and Austria is a matter that only concerns Cairo and Vienna. He further stressed that Egypt's decision to invite the Austrian president is a sovereign one that concerns Cairo alone. He added that Egypt will not accept any interference in or comment on this decision in view of the fact that Egypt does not interfere in Israel's domestic affairs.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid continued: We will not allow anyone to interfere in our domestic affairs or sovereign decisions, and the Israelis must understand this.

AL-AHRAM Denounces Remarks

NC172021 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1952 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — The Egyptian newspaper *Al-Ahram* has denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's criticism of Egypt's invitation to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. The paper says that the decision to invite Waldheim is a matter for Egypt alone and no interference by any state on any pretext can be accepted.

In a comment to be published on the front page of tomorrow's edition, *Al-Ahram* says that Israel has in the past exchanged visits with racist regimes boycotted by most countries of the world. Despite the fact that the actions of these regimes have been denounced by the United Nations, Israel maintains full diplomatic relations with them and supplies them with arms and military advisers. Besides, the paper continues, Waldheim was UN secretary general for 8 years and played an important role in serving peace and understanding among people before the friendly Austrian people elected him as president. In addition, it has not been proven that he has a Nazi or racist past.

Further Criticism From AL-AHRAM

NC200703 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2228 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA) — *Al-Ahram* strongly criticizes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statement about Egypt's invitation to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. The paper says that such a statement exceeds all limits. It affirms that Egypt is a sovereign state and has a right to invite any president it likes.

In its editorial to be published in Monday's edition, the paper notes that it is unacceptable for an Israeli official to object to this visit on the grounds that the guest has been accused of collaboration with nazism in the past in view of the fact that these allegations have only come from Zionist circles.

The paper states that the Zionist campaign against Waldheim has sprung from a desire on the part of Zionist circles to take revenge on the Austrian president because, they claim, he was biased toward the Arabs during the October war when he was UN secretary general.

In conclusion, *Al-Ahram* says that by discussing Waldheim's visit to Egypt, Shamir has involved himself in an unjust campaign against the head of a sovereign state. Shamir should have refrained from doing this at such a time. The paper asserts that statements of this kind can reopen old wounds. Israel could find itself in a similar position if others were to apply the same criteria with regard to its cooperation with regimes judged by the United Nations to be suspect.

Mubarak, Husayn To Discuss Contacts on Conference

NC172013 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1942 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — The *Akhbar al-Yawm* weekly has reported that President Husni Mubarak will confer with King Husayn of Jordan early next month to review the intensive contacts being held by Egypt and Jordan for the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

In tomorrow's edition, the paper says that the Mubarak-Husayn talks will deal with the conflicting stands of the United States and the Soviet Union, inclusion of the Palestinians in a joint delegation with Jordan, inviting Syria to attend, both countries' efforts to bridge the gap between the PLO and Jordan, and the stands adopted by the five permanent UN Security Council member states.

Libyan Helicopter Crew Confirms Asylum Request

NC171804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — Crew members of a Libyan helicopter, which landed at an air base in western Egypt yesterday on the border with Libya, appeared on Egyptian television this evening.

The crew, Captain Muhammad Daw al-Fahri and NCO Technicians 'Adil Sayyid 'Abd al-Kafi and Muhammad Shib Muhammad, affirmed that they have requested political asylum in Egypt. They noted that they had sought refuge here to escape the bad conditions prevailing in Libya and expressed hope that these conditions will change.

The men praised the treatment they have received in Egypt.

The Libyan helicopter which landed yesterday is the third Libyan aircraft to escape to Egypt this year. The crews of all three requested political asylum.

Chased by Libyan Jet

NC172029 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — The *Al-Ahram* newspaper has reportedthat the Libyan military helicopter whose crew sought asylum in Egypt yesterday was chased by a Libyan fighter aircraft which tried to intercept it and force it to return to its base in Tubruq in Al-Bayda' as it was entering Egyptian airspace. In tomorrow's edition,the paper says that Egyptian forces took immediate steps to deal with the Libyan fighter plane. Our fighter aircraft provided a defense umbrella and escorted the helicopter from the moment it entered Egyptian airspace until it landed safely at an Egyptian air base in the west.

Abu Ghazalah Cites Pilot

NC190707 Cairo MENA in English 0655 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, July 19 (MENA) — The pilot of the Libyan helicopter who fled to Egypt in his aircraft said all Libyan pilots without exception wanted to seek political asylum in Egypt but were unable to do so because of the close surveillance imposed on them by the Libyan intelligence, Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah told reporters yesterday.

The deputy premier and minister of defence and military production gave reporters the full details of the flight of the last Libyan helicopter to Egypt after a ceremony marking the graduation of a batch of officers from the Military Technical College, report *Al-Ahram* and *Al-Akhbar* in their top billing and leading front-page stories and *Al-Jumhuriyah* in its second-lead story.

The field marshal said two Libyan military aircrafts had been flown to Egypt previously by Libyan officers seeking asylum in Egypt. One was a Chinook helicopter and the other was a C-130 transport. He said that we returned the C-130 transport after an agreement was struck with Arab mediation that Libyan Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would release the three Egyptians being detained in Libya. But Al-Qadhdhafi did not honour the agreement or the Arab mediators and has not released the three Egyptians until now.

In a speech at the graduation ceremony, attended by the prime minister, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the interior minister and the finance minister, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the modifications Egypt had carried out on modern weapons had stunned the world. He emphasized that Egypt had a broad base of scientists, technicians and military experts who were capable of dealing with the most advanced technologies in the world.

They had produced the Egyptian air defence system among which was an advanced version of the Sky Guard system and the Egyptian Ramases tank which was superior to the American M 160-3 tank, as well as other defence systems and weapons. These were a reply to biased skeptics who were trying to create doubt about Egypt's ability to assimilate advanced technology.

Replying to reporters' questions about the Libyan helicopter after the ceremony, the defense and military production minister [words indistinct] aircraft had informed Egypt of his intention to seek asylum in Egypt but he and his companions went through with the plan when the opportunity came. Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the pilot of the aircraft contacted the Egyptian authorities saying he was coming after Egyptian air defence radar spotted the aircraft. The Libyan helicopter was immediately intercepted by two Egyptian fighter aircraft which escorted it until it landed in the airfield.

Anti-Libyan Front Statement

NC191312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA) — The National Front for the Salvation of Libya [NFSL] has reiterated that the defection of a third group of Libyan military pilots to Egypt expresses the opposition of the Libyan Air Force to Al-Qadhdhafi's rule. The NFSL stressed that the defection also embodies the Libyan people's absolute rejection of the Libyan regime's crimes and irresponsible acts.

In a statement issued here today, the NFSL said that another group of Libyan military pilots has managed to acquaint the

world at large for the third time in 4 months with the Libyan Armed Forces rejection of Al-Qadhdhafi's regime and their complaints about that regime's crimes against the Libyan people, their destinies, and holy places.

The front went on to say that the various military and civilian national Libyan opposition and rejectionist forces, both inside and outside that country, will continue to resort to all possible and available means in internal and external arenas to express their opposition to that regime. These forces will relentlessly endeavor and struggle to overthrow the chaotic, terrorist, and treasonous regime of Al-Qadhdhafi and will set up a national, constitutional, and democratic regime throughout Libya.

Sudanese Party Leader Makes Statement, Departs

NC181057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA) — Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, left Cairo for London this morning at the conclusion of a visit to Egypt which lasted for several days. During his stay, Al-Mirghani met with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub.

In a predeparture statement, Al-Mirghani disclosed that his talks in Cairo had included an exchange of views on Arab issues and on ways to promote bilateral relations in the cultural, economic, political, security, and defense spheres. He asserted that bilateral relations would develop substantially in the future, particularly after Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Sudan in October. He said that new foundations for promoting these relations would be laid during the Egyptian prime minister's trip.

The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party leader further disclosed that during his talks he had informed Egyptian officials about the views of the Sudanese Government, the Democratic Unionist Party, and the Al-Ummah Party on issues pertaining to the defense and security of the Nile valley and on the ways to enhance and not weaken them. He noted President Mubarak's and Prime Minister Sidqi's positive responses in this regard. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid Meets with Sudan's Foreign Minister

NC181511 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this afternoon with Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a private visit scheduled to several days.

After the 1 and 1/2 hour meeting, the Sudanese foreign minister said that although his visit was a private one, he still found it necessary to call on his Egyptian brothers in order to exchange views with them on the Nile Valley. He added: I avoid saying bilateral relations because the two countries belong to the same valley. I must state here that the views expressed, though not identical, are the same. [sentence as received]

Commenting on the Brotherhood Charter between the two countries, the Sudanese foreign minister disclosed that a committee was set up in Sudan a week ago consisting of the foreign affairs, industry, and health ministers, all of whom had accompanied Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on his visit to Egypt and who were present at the signing of the Brotherhood Charter. This committee will form four subcommittees to prepare for Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi's upcoming visit to Sudan, which we hope will take place as soon as possible, the Sudanese foreign minister stated. He noted: These committees are trying to make his visit a success and are working toward the implementation of the Brotherhood Charter.

Referring to Egypt's role in mediating between Sudan and Ethiopia, the Sudanese foreign minister said that the presence of some Sudanese in Ethiopia had distorted the two countries' relations. Because Egypt is concerned about Sudan's security and is interested in achieving stability between Sudan and Ethiopia, it is seeking to eliminate the existing tension between them. He added: The security of both countries is indivisible. We believe that Egypt's efforts will eventually succeed.

Joint Economic Talks With Sudan Open in Cairo

NC181243 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA) — Economic talks between Egypt and Sudan opened here today. Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Yusri Mustafa led the Egyptian side to the talks, which are scheduled to continue until Tuesday [21 July]. The Sudanese delegation was headed by Trade Minister Dr Ibrahim 'Abd al-Jalil, who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

In the opening session, Dr Yusri Mustafa expressed Egypt's eagerness to promote its special relations with Sudan, noting that Egypt looks forward to developing both countries' production systems in a way that will meet their needs for industrial, agricultural and animal products, and raw materials.

Following the opening session, members of the technical committees began their follow-up of the implementation of the bilateral trade agreement signed in Khartoum last February. Separate committees for trade, customs, industry, and finance have been formed to assess the degree to which the agreement has been carried out. The final session of talks is scheduled for Tuesday.

Sudanese Minister on Trade Ties

NC191252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA) — Sudanese Trade Minister Ibrahim 'Abd al-Jalil has asserted that in view of the nature of both countries' relations, his government is eager to solve any problem that hinders trade exchange with Egypt.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the Sudanese minister, who is leading a delegation on an official visit to Egypt, said that his current talks with Egyptian officials will focus on the issue of import fees which the Sudanese Customs Department has imposed upon certain Egyptian products and commodities, particularly in light of Egypt's cancellation of all customs fees

imposed upon Sudanese imports. The minister noted that it is natural to apply the principle of reciprocity.

The Sudanese minister added that his government is currently considering an alternative accord to replace the abrogated economic integration agreement. [passage omitted]

Minister 'Abd al-Jalil proposed that the two countries' future relations should take the form of common investments that link trade with investment. He expressed his belief that both countries should establish joint investment companies that satisfy the needs of both peoples through the utilization of available resources. [passage omitted]

Beninese Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

NC180528 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA) — Beninese Minister of Foreign Affairs Guy Hazoume arrived in Cairo tonight on a 1-day visit to Egypt. Upon arrival at the airport, the Beninese minister disclosed that he is carrying a message from President Mathieu Kerekou to President Mubarak on boosting bilateral relations. He added that he will depart for Addis Ababa tomorrow evening to attend the African foreign ministers meetings scheduled to begin on Monday [20 July].

Departs Following Talks

NC190700 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] The Beninese minister of foreign affairs left Cairo this morning following a 1-day visit during which he was received by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. During the visit, discussion centered on the scope of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Libyan, Iranian, Syrian 'Personnel' Arrested

JN191543 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — Major General Zaki Badr, Egyptian interior minister, has announced that Egypt's security authorities have apprehended personnel from Libya, Syria, and Iran while they were attempting to enter the country with forged passports. He added that equipment has been installed at ports and airports to detect forged passports. He said that anyone having a forged passport will be deported immediately.

French Break With Iran Termed 'Hateful Crusade'

LD200816 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Jul (JANA) — An official spokesman for the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has issued the following statement: The French Government issued a statement on 17 July 1987 in which it announced the breaking of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. France claims that a member of the Iranian Embassy in France has refused to appear before a French court to answer a charge of involvement with those who planned assassinations that occurred in Paris in September 1986.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison on this occasion, while reaffirming the Great Jamahiriyah's condemnation of terrorist acts and their perpetrators — of which it itself has been a victim more than once, the last time being the unjust U.S. imperialist aggression of April 1986 — condemns thisunstudied French decision, which is carried out in a spirit of hateful crusade against the Arab and Islamic nation. It violates both international law and customs governing relations among nations. The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison expresses the Jamahiriyah's solidarity and support for the Iranian people in their struggle for freedom and liberation from imperialist domination.

Opposition Member 'Killed by Mistake' in Rome

LD192156 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Yusif Kharbish, an opponent of the Libyan Government, who was assassinated in Rome on 26 June by Tripoli's agents, was killed by mistake, according to Libyan opposition sources in exile in Cairo. These sources claim the ambush's target was a Tripoli citizen who came from across the Atlantic.

Delegates Marking Egyptian Revolution Arrive

LD192056 Tripoli JANA in English 0955 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 19, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The delegations to the national symposium to mark the 23rd July Revolution in Egypt began to arrive in Tripoli.

The symposium organised by the Permanent Secretariat of the People's Arab Congress on the occasion of 35th anniversary of July revolution. [sentence as received]

Mr Abdeladim al-Meghribi, the delegate of the General Secretariat of the Arab Lawyers Union and member of the Central Committee of the Nasserist party arrived yesterday in Tripoli.

He expressed, in a statement to the correspondent of JANA, his pleasure to visit Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the proceedings of the symposium.

He pointed out that his visit came within the context that he is member of the Nasserist party which the Great al-Fatih Revolution has strong links with and that the Great al-Fatih Revolution is subject in the same way the 23rd July Revolution was to imperialist and Zionist plots and schemes.

Also arrived yesterday was Mohammed Ahmed Khalef, assistant secretary general of the Egyptian Alliance Party and chairman of the National Council of Arab Culture.

Dr Mohammed Ahmed Khalef asserted in a statement to JANA that the 23rd July Revolution sparked off political awareness amongst Arab masses and enticed them to carry out revolution in a number of Arab countries.

Dr Khalef saluted the interest of the Great al-Fatih Revolution in the occasion in marking it while other Arab countries did not show any concern regarding this event despite the fact that it is the revolution which bolstered the forces of progress and revolution in other Arab countries.

He said he came to attend the proceedings of the symposium on behalf of the Egyptian Arab people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From GUNT Leader

LD182009 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother (Mahamat Alouani), the secretary general of the GUNT government, who delivered a message from Goukouni Oueddei concerning Chad and the unification of Chadian detachments.

Al-Qadhdhafi, YAR President Speak by Telephone

LD200022 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has held a telephone conversation with the brother leader of the revolution in which he discussed the current situation in the Arab region.

Ethiopia 'Reportedly' Massing Troops on Border

JN190939 Khartoum SUNA in English
0920 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, July 19 (SUNA) — Ethiopia has started massing troops along the joint borders with Sudan, the daily *Al-Siyasah* published today quoted a reliable source as saying.

The source said the Ethiopian troops recently committed armed looting acts on the Sudanese border villages, the daily said.

The source whom the newspaper did not identify pointed that the Ethiopian troops opened fire last Thursday [16 July] on the Sudanese Armed Forces stationing along the borders but no casualties were reported.

The source added that three Ethiopian jet fighters hovered two days ago over the Eritrean territories near the Sudanese boders, the daily said but declined to mention if they violated the Sudanese air space or not.

A comprehensive security plan has been worked out for defending the Sudanese borders, the daily quoted the source as saying.

Students Demonstrate in Khartoum, Omdurman

JN191048 Khartoum SUNA in English
0915 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum July 19 (SUNA) — Khartoum and Omdurman towns witnessed yesterday students demonstrations in which the students burn tyres in the streets.

The demonstrations came as protest against the severe shortage of school equipments.

The security authorities have arrested some students leaders.

Assembly Hears Premier's Statement on Gulf Tour

EA162005 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
2130 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] On behalf of the prime minister, Dr 'Umar Bashir, minister of finance and economy, delivered an address to the Constituent Assembly on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to four Gulf states.

The minister stated that the countries visited included Iraq, which had reproached Sudan for its relations with Iran. He noted that the prime minister had explained that Sudan's relations with Iran are not partisan, [word indistinct], or ideological. The aim of visiting Iran was to bring about Muslim unity and to achieve coexistence between Arabs and Persians in the interests of peace and an end to the war. The minister added that Iraq had understood Sudan's position.

Another country visited was Kuwait, where an agreement on oil, installations, housing, trade, joint investment, and increased investment of Kuwaiti funds in Sudan was signed. In Qatar, agreements on oil and cooperation in road construction, [word indistinct], rural (?infrastructure), warehousing, and irrigation were concluded.

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, an agreement on oil and trade was signed. The minister declared that the visit included a meeting with Sudanese expatriates. The prime minister explained conditions inside Sudan and related financial policies.

Official, Soviet Ambassador on Trade Protocol

JN161815 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum 16 Jul (SUNA) — 'Umar al-Mubarak Abu Zayd, under secretary at the Ministry of Trade, Cooperation, and Supply [title as received], has stated that the main obstacle to implementing the Sudanese-Soviet trade protocol is the failure to agree upon banking transactions between the central bank and its Soviet counterpart.

The under secretary explained that the Bank of Sudan has recently completed reviewing methods of carrying out banking transactions between the two countries. These conclusions were forwarded to the USSR central bank so that they can be studied and agreement can be reached on the matter.

Abu Zayd denied there are any administrative or political obstacles to implementing the Sudanese-Soviet protocol. He declared that the protocol will to a great extent meet the urgent and vital needs of Sudanese consumers.

The Soviet ambassador to Khartoum yesterday stated that there are some distortions regarding this protocol, particularly by the media. He asserted that the Soviet side is not at all responsible for the delay in the protocol's implementation. Following his meeting with the Ministry of Trade, Cooperation, and Supply's under secretary yesterday, the Soviet ambassador stated that agreement was reached on the need to eliminate all obstacles so that the protocol's implementation can begin as soon as possible. The ambassador declined to say what these obstacles were, but said the Sudanese side must do its duty to aid the protocol.

Defense Official Nasir Begins Visit to Turkey

For reportage on the 15 July arrival and official meetings in Ankara of Fadlallah Burma Nasir, the Sudanese minister of state for defense, including his meeting with National Defense Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and General Sabri Delic, National Defense Ministry under secretary, see the Turkey section of the 16 July West Europe *Daily Report*.

KUWAIT

Prime Minister on Iraq-Iran War, Reflagging

LD200842 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0754 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jul (KUNA) — Kuwait today called on Iran to respond to the international peace efforts for ending the Iraq-Iran war, and affirmed that its decision to raise foreign flags over its oil tankers "is not intended as a call for interference in the region." The appeal was made by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti prime minister and heir apparent, at a news conference he held here today for correspondents of world television, radio, press, and news agencies.

Shaykh Sa'd called on Iran "to respond to the efforts for peace which are being prepared at the United Nations for ending the fighting and finding a peaceful solution to the conflict." He stressed the importance of a settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict, which is about to complete its 7th year, "by peaceful means." He said "Kuwait's position has been based and continues to be based on noninterference in this conflict, on the call for ending the fighting, and on reaching an honorable, just, and peaceful settlement which would safeguard the rights of all."

He pointed out that his country's proximity to the battlefield "makes us more sensitive to the tribulations of this devastating war and more aware of the dangers of its spreading and threatening the security and safety of the entire Gulf, and, consequently, its threat to world peace and security."

Shaykh Sa'd expressed Kuwait's sorrow at the failure of all efforts made so far at various levels to stop the fighting and establish peace. He said: It is truly painful that this destructive war has been allowed to continue for nearly 7 years, to increase in intensity and ferocity, to continue taking more lives, to spread further destruction in the two warring countries, and for its duration to exceed the great world wars.

The Kuwaiti minister also expressed his sorrow that the Gulf region — which is an important pillar of the world economy and whose natural resources are regarded as constituents of civilization and world prosperity — has become one of the regions which constitutes a threat to world peace and security and threatens the stability and prosperity of the world.

He explained that the international community represented in the United Nations, the great countries which are permanent members of the UN Security Council, maritime countries, and countries which benefit from shipping in the Gulf have acted to face the dangers of this war. The damages and consequences of the war have spread beyond the borders of the two warring nations to all the countries of the region, and to the international waters of the Gulf. He described this area as an international waterway, and the lifeline of the world economy.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah defended Kuwait's decision to hire some oil tankers and to reregister some of its oil tankers in other countries, saying that "this decision stemmed from Kuwait's belief in peace and out of its anxiety not to increase tension in the region." He affirmed that this step "was not intended as a provocation to anyone nor was it directed against anyone. It does not seek to involve or draw in anyone or to invite anyone to interfere in the region."

He described the Kuwaiti decision as "a purely commercial operation, aimed at insuring the continued transportation of Kuwaiti oil to its markets and Kuwait's fulfillment of its contractual commitments." He pointed out in this regard "that this measure was neither new nor novel. We have been hiring ships and tankers from various countries of the world."

He said "the matter was not one of a changing of flags or the replacement of one flag by another. It was a complete reregistration operation." He affirmed that the "reregistered ships will become U.S. vessels governed by U.S. laws and regulations; they will pay taxes just like U.S. companies and the scores of other ships registered in the United States."

He added: "We have not stipulated or asked anyone to protect these vessels. It is up to each country to protect or not protect its vessels in international waters."

He stressed Kuwait's responsibility for protecting its territories, skies, ports, and territorial waters. He added, however, that the Gulf international waters "were the responsibility of the international community, the maritime countries, and those benefitting from freedom of navigation in this international passageway."

Shaykh Sa'd affirmed that by inviting the five big powers to shoulder their responsibilities as permanent members of the UN Security Council and to cooperate to ensure the freedom of navigation and the safety of ships in the international waters of the Gulf, Kuwait "did not aim in any way at drawing these countries in to interfere in the region." "This was against our declared policy and firm principles, which call for keeping the region out from the sphere of superpower rivalry," he said. He affirmed that Kuwait was opposed to any widening of the war, and against interference by other parties in the region.

He described the big powers' escorting of their own commercial vessels "as an ordinary and customary action." He said that "these warships have been present regularly in the Bahr al-Arab sea and the Gulf for scores of years. And these ships belong to the USSR, the United States, Britain, and France."

He said that the USSR, the United States, and Britain all have welcomed Kuwait's invitation and said "the USSR has provisionally leased us three of its oil tankers and expressed readiness to lease us more. The United States response has been positive, too. The United States has told us that although it did not have any tankers to lease to us, it was prepared to reregister a number of our tankers in its country."

Shaykh Sa'd added: "As for Britain, we have been hiring ships from it for some time, and it is considering leasing other ships to us or having some of our vessels reregistered in Britain."

With regard to China and France, the Kuwaiti prime minister said that they were "studying the matter, and contacts were still in progress with them."

'Not Ready' for U.S. Air Bases

LD201111 Kuwait KUNA in English 0938 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Kuwait, July 20 (KUNA) — H.H. the crown prince and prime minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah Monday affirmed that Kuwait's step to re-register its vessels "is not a [words indistinct] a press conference, attended by world media representatives, Shaykh al-Sabah added that the Kuwaiti move "is not an attempt to lure or involve anyone...nor does it invite any intervention in the region." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, Shaykh Sa'd expressed optimism over an end to the Iraq-Iran war, hoping that the U.N. Security Council members would approve the proposed resolution which will be discussed today on a ceasefire to the Gulf conflict.

Regarding a call to hold the long awaited Arab summit, Shaykh Sa'd said "We expressed readiness to attend any Arab meeting held at any level to discuss aggressions against any Arab country," emphasizing the importance of holding an Arab summit to solve current Arab problems.

Commenting on the superpowers' ability to contain the Iraq-Iran war, he believed that they are able through various means to convince the warring parties that it is high time to stop the conflict.

Asked on Iraq's stand toward the U.N. draft resolution on a complete ceasefire to the war, Shaykh Sa'd said that Iraq calls for such a resolution, expressing Kuwait's support to a complete ceasefire.

Replying to a question on what would be Kuwait's reaction if one of the re-registered tankers was attacked, he said "I hope that the matter would not reach this extent."

Asked whether Kuwait or other Gulf countries would allow American fighters to use military bases or fly over Gulf countries to protect these vessels, the premier said that he would not speak on behalf of "the brothers in the Gulf," but concerning Kuwait "We are not ready to provide naval or air bases for American jets."

Commenting on Kuwait's stand toward the Soviet proposal to pull out all foreign fleets from the Gulf region when the Iraq-Iran war comes to a halt, the crown prince said the withdrawal of these vessels is up to the international community.

Asked when the first re-registered Kuwaiti ship will sail in the Gulf, he said it will be during this week.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sa'd lauded Iraq's support to Kuwait in face of any aggression, adding that it is high time for the Arabs to realise the dimensions and dangers of this war and to agree on finding a solution to this conflict. Iraq should not be left alone in this war because the Iraqi land is part of the Arab territories, Shaykh Sa'd stressed.

He expressed regret over Iran's boycott of the fifth Islamic Summit Conference, held here last January, and its refusal to receive the OIC secretary general and a Kuwaiti representative to deliver H.H. the amir's message to the Iranian leader on all resolutions adopted by the Islamic summit.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Ship Flagging

LD181443 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1328 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Jul (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, in an interview broadcast here welcomed the presence of UN naval forces in the Gulf and at the same time rejected holding Kuwait responsible for the presence of the superpowers' fleets in Gulf waters.

All-India Radio cited Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as saying that "Kuwait welcomes the carrying out by UN naval forces of patrol missions in the Gulf waters, and the responsibility of forming such forces is that of the United Nations or the superpowers."

He pointed out that all the maritime transport companies that suffered damage as a result of attacks carried out on their ships in the Gulf waters called for the forming of international naval forces to protect navigation, "but unfortunately nothing happened."

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister rejected Kuwaiti responsibility for the presence of the superpowers' fleets in the Gulf waters. He stressed the fact that the presence of naval units belonging to those powers "cannot be due to our latest move to reregister our oil tankers or charter oil tankers." He added that "foreign forces have been present in the area for the last 40 years, and the Americans, Russians, and British have been protecting their ships for a long time."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that it is not our responsibility to protect the foreign naval units in the Gulf waters, saying, "I believe that the responsibility for protecting these ships in the Gulf waters falls on the states which flag them."

The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs urged that the Gulf be considered a peace zone. He expressed Kuwait's support for such a move, given that the Gulf constitutes part of the Indian Ocean.

Explaining the decision to hoist the U.S. flag on a number of Kuwaiti oil tankers, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said Kuwait signed an agreement with the United States to hoist the U.S. flag on 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers, which are part of a fleet of 24 tankers. "The 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers will hoist the U.S. flag; therefore, they will fall under U.S. law...and Kuwait will pay all the consequent duties and taxes." He indicated that the agreement is valid for 1 year, and said "all measures have been taken, and it is the U.S. Government who will fix the date when its flag is to be hoisted on the 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers."

The shaykh also blamed Iran for prolonging the tension in the region and said that Kuwait wants good, normal, and friendly relations with Iran.

The deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs expressed his satisfaction with the standard of Kuwaiti-Indian

relations, and reminded us that they go back a long way. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also declared that an envoy of his highness the amir would go to India within a few days to explain Kuwait's viewpoint on the current developments in the Gulf region.

Newspapers Hail Nation's 'Diplomatic Success'
LD200911 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 20 (KUNA) — Three Kuwaiti dailies Monday hailed Kuwait's diplomatic success in pushing the Gulf war to the forefront of the world's major powers' attention, urging follow-up steps to ensure that the war is halted. But the papers, in editorial comments on the Security Council's session to vote on a draft ceasefire resolution, said though a U.N. cover is an historic opportunity for cessation of hostilities, it may not be enough to open Iraqi-Iranian negotiations for reaching a peace settlement.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm newspaper said it was not an easy job for Kuwait to bring attention of the great powers to the dangers of the tankers war in the Gulf and the freedom of navigation in its waters. Kuwait, it noted, is well aware that settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict will be tough to realize as long as Iran remained adamant in rejecting peace calls and U.N. resolutions remain far from implemented because of the divergent intersts of the major powers.

The golden opportunity, *Al-Watan* daily opined, represented by the Security Council's ceasefire resolution should be the focal point for eventual efforts by Third World countries to stop the Iraq-Iran war. It should also give the Arabs a chance for reflecting on the implications of this war and the imperialist-Zionist plans involved to take a unified stand from halting this perilous conflict.

"It is true that Iran is trying to divide the Arab stance on the war with the hope of realizing victory over Iraq," the paper noted, hoping that world concensus on the need for peace in the Gulf should be followed by an Arab united effort to stop the war and make Iran see futility of its divisive attempt.

The English-language, *Kuwait Times* defended Kuwait's steps and arrangements taken to safeguard free and safe navigation in the Gulf and its efforts to arouse world attention to danger of the escalating Iraq-Iran war. However, the paper pinpointed the limited capabilities of the United Nations, inherent in its multi-national composition, to be adequately effective in situations calling for prompt and decisive action.

The daily made note of the efforts exerted by his highness the amir of Kuwait in his capacity as current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to quell the conflict and bring back peace and good neighbourliness to the region and emphasized that the efforts will continue after the U.N. adopts the ceasfire resolution. There should be no doubt, it remarked, that these efforts will assume greater significance in the post-ceasefire period, which, the paper hoped, "may not be very far if the developments in the United Nations bear fruit."

French Envoy on Arms Deliveries, Iran Relations
LD200929 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 20 Jul (KUNA) — French Ambassador to Kuwait Marcel Laugel has affirmed in an interview published here today that his country is ready to supply Kuwait with all the arms it wants.

In his comprehensive interview, which was made to the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Anba'*, the French ambassador said his country does not have the necessary capability to escort oil tankers, or French or foreign vessels, pointing out that Kuwait understands this position and consequently it will not approach France in this regard.

The French ambassador declared that he cannot predict what change will take place in his country's position should French vessels sailing in the Gulf face an attack by Iran, following the severance of diplomatic relations between Paris and Tehran last Friday. This break occurred following the increase in tension between the two countries and their reciprocal acts of revenge lasting some 3 weeks.

With regard to the embassies' crisis between France and Iran, the French diplomat said that Iran has been isolating itself internationally, and it is not in Iran's interest to deal with the French diplomats in Tehran as hostages. He discounted the likelihood that the French Embassy in Tehran would meet the same fate as the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979, in the days of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, "because the situation is different now." [passage omitted]

Referring to the resolution which the UN Security Council is expected to adopt today in the presence of the foreign ministers of the superpowers, the French ambassador said that his country fully supports this international endeavor. He added that the provisions of this resolution are liable to change at any time until they are adopted, but it is definite that the Security Council will give the two warring parties some 50 days to consider the resolution. He pointed out that future international sanctions will depend on the extent of the two sides' response to the Security Council resolutions.

Ambassador Laugel disclosed that secret French-Iraqi negotiations are in progress for the rebuilding of the Iraqi nuclear reactor which was destroyed by Israel in June 1981. However, he refused to give any details about the negotiations, saying that their results will also remain secret. He described relations between the two countries as excellent.

He affirmed that an international conference on Palestine will put an end "to the treachery of nations and their hypocricies," and added that the conference cannot succeed without the participation of the PLO and the USSR. Ambassador Laugel spoke of the success of French pressures in persuading Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to accept the idea of the conference, adding that there was still a problem in trying to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Navy Divers Clear Al-Ahmadi Port of Mines

LD191828 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 July (KUNA) — A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has stated that with the help of Almighty God, effective work by Kuwaiti Navy frogmen, the appreciated assistance from their brothers in the Saudi Arabian Navy, and some U.S. experts, this evening the entrance of Al-Ahmadi port was completely cleared of all mines. Thus, the seaway to this port is passable and clear of any obstacles. God is to be reckoned with for success.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Salih, Bangladesh's Ershad End Talks in Sanaa

JN180803 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The official talks between our country and the People's Republic of Bangladesh ended last night. The session was chaired by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and His Excellency President Hussain Ershad, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

In an address at the start of the meeting, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the talks between the two countries. President Salih said: We are happy about your presence here among us in the YAR, your second country. Your visit will provide our two countries with many opportunities for bilateral cooperation. The agreements between our countries are irrefutable proof of the two sides' sincere desire to achieve cooperation. President Salih expressed satisfaction with the topics discussed with President Ershad on the bilateral, regional, international, and Islamic levels. He pointed out that views were identical, since both countries belong to the Islamic nation and the Nonaligned Movement.

President Salih said: Your Excellency, we consider your visit a very fruitful and successful one, and it will have its impact on the interests of our two Muslim peoples and countries. President Salih accepted an invitation to visit Bangladesh and said that visits will continue to be exchanged between the two countries' officials on all levels.

President Hussain Ershad expressed happiness with this visit and with its results in the sphere of mutual cooperation and understanding. He emphasized that the agreements between the two countries will further enhance bilateral cooperation. President Ershad said: We had a pleasant stay in your country, and we will go back to our country with good impressions of this people who have demonstrated their love for their brothers in Bangladesh through the warm welcome they accorded us.

His Excellency President Ershad added that the understanding shown during the visit will further enhance the joint interests of the Yemeni and Bangladesh people in the future. He said that views were completely identical on the issues discussed. He added: God willing, you will always find that Bangladesh supports the YAR's stand on all regional, Islamic, and international issues. Concluding, he reiterated his thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality he and his delegation were accorded.

During this session, the two sides completed the discussion of bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, technical, and cultural fields, and ways of promoting relations between the two countries in all other fields. The two sides also discussed developments in the Islamic and international arenas and their stands on them. The two sides' views on all topics discussed were identical. The two sides also reiterated their support for the ICO's activities to enhance its role of serving the causes of the Islamic world. They reaffirmed their support for the Nonaligned Movement to enhance its role and enable it to fulfill the interests of nonaligned countries and establish justice and peace in the world.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Ershad attended the signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding on the formation of a joint ministerial committee by the YAR and Bangladesh, of the two agreements for economic and technical cooperaton, and of the minutes on the official talks held between the two countries. [passage omitted]

In a press statement following his talks with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, His Excellency President Ershad said his visit to our country will further promote relations between the two peoples and countries. He explained that his visit resulted in several cooperation agreements between the two countries.

In reply to a question on the Iraq-Iran war, President Ershad said the talks between the two sides dealt with the importance of halting this losing war. He said that the discussions also dealt with many regional and international issues of mutual interest. He stressed that the Palestinian cause will remain the most important issue for the Islamic world. He said just peace in the Middle East can be attained only if the Palestinian issue is settled and the Palestinian people regain their rights and establish their independent state. He added that his country supports the efforts to convene an international conference to solve the Middle East crisis and establish a just peace in the region.

Ershad Makes Statement, Departs

JN181324 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, left Sanaa at 0930 today following a visit of several days at the invitation of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of thd Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The guest was accorded an official and popular sendoff at Sanaa airport. Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih headed those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, made a statement to SABA in which he expressed deep pleasure at visiting the YAR, noting the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him during his visit. He said this reflects the sincere feelings of friendship

the Yemeni people harbor for the people of Bangladesh. His Excellency President Ershad said his talks with the brother president and officials dealt with regional and international issues of mutual interest. He affirmed the talks were conducted in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. He said these talks were useful and constructive and would effectively contribute to bolstering bilateral relations.

His Excellency President Ershad said there are numerous areas in which the two countries can cooperate. He praised the YAR's economic, social, and cultural progress under the wise leadership of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. At the conclusion of his statement, he said he invited the brother president to visit the People's Republic of Bangladesh to allow the people of Bangladesh to express their deep appreciation to the YAR people and government.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Finance Minister, Iranian Envoy Confer 18 Jul

LD181813 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Iran's Ambassador in Abu Dhabi Mostafa Fumani [name and title as received] conferred with Finance and Industry Minister of United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum on the latest developments of the Persian Gulf region, in Abu Dhabi Saturday [18 July].

The two sides stressed on the need for expansion of relations between Iran and U.A.E in various fields.

Major Gulf Strikes Reportedly To Cease Temporarily

LD200832 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jul — Iraq will decide to cease its military operations in its conflict with Iran as soon as the UN Security Council adopts its resolution calling for a halt to the Iraq-Iran war later today, the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Siyasah* reports.

In an unattributed report today, the newspaper claims that "Iraq will confine itself only to limited operations, returning fire sporadically if Iran continues." The paper adds that "Iraq will temporarily, probably for a few days or weeks, freeze its strikes against major naval targets in the Arab Gulf waters."

The UN Security Council is expected to adopt a resolution today calling for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war, which has raged since 1980, for the withdrawal of the two warring countries' forces to their international borders, and for settlement of the conflict by peaceful means.

Paper Cited on 'Responsible' French Move to Iran

JN190817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 (INA) — An Iraqi paper has described the French decision to sever relations with the Iranian regime as a firm, responsible, respectable, and internationally necessary move.

The *Al-Thawrah* newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an editorial today that the French decision to sever relations with Iran is a natural result of Iran's conduct. The international status, political importance, and self-respect of France make it incumbent upon that country to reject any party's attempt at extortion. Moreover, the Iranian regime went too far in not respecting and disregarding all values and norms governing relations between states.

The newspaper adds that as a UN Security Council permanent member state — and as a great power exerting distinguished efforts to halt the war within the framework of honorable international efforts — France was naturally a target for the Iranian regime's immoral practices, especially since this regime is the party that has rejected any sincere effort to halt its aggression against Iraq. This is due to Iran's sick and evil belief that its cheap, rejected. extortionist attempts will attain its mean objectives.

Al-Thawrah explains that the Iranian regime — unable to conceal its scandals, interference in other states' internal affairs, and involvement in international terrorism — has adopted this course as a basis for its foreign policy in a desperate attempt to pressure and blackmail states. This has taken place now that its intrigues and schemes have been exposed to all, after most states have begun to point accusing fingers at it for being a source of terrorism, and after its acts and intentions have aroused suspicion at all levels.

In conclusion, the newspaper affirms that the French decision to sever ties with the Iranian regime must play a role in checking and curtailing the Khomeyni regime's reckless practices and insolent inteference in other states' internal affairs. If other states were to make such a decision, it would put an end to the Iranian regime's arrogance and its subversive, terrorist course in the international arena.

Reportage on Gulf War Battlefront Continues

Communique No 2,747 Issued

JN171633 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,747 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 July 1987]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force carried out 64 combat missions over the battlefields, inflicting further losses in life and equipment on the Zionist Khomeyniites and destroying their positions. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Units from our valiant formations in the I Army Corps northern sector fired various types of weapons at the enemy positions opposite them. They inflicted the following losses on the enemy: 10 soldiers killed; a 107-mm tubular launcher burned and destroyed; and 6 positions, a vehicle, and 2 ammunition dumps destroyed.

3. One of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris spotted an enemy formation, fired at it, and killed a number of scoundrels. The remainder of the enemy fled. Elsewhere in the same sector, an enemy machinegun, two positions, a vehicle, and several ammunition dumps were destroyed.

4. Several enemy personnel were killed or wounded and a 106-mm artillery piece, two gun emplacements, an observation post, and three ammunition dumps were destroyed in the III Army Corps central sector. One of our patrols in the same sector captured six Kalashnikovs and an RPG-7 rocket launcher.

5. One of our units in the V Army Corps northern sector delivered a telling blow to an enemy position, killing five enemy personnel and wounding others, and detonated an ammunition dump.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 July 1987

Communique No 2,748 Issued

JN180956 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,748 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 July 1987]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At midnight last night, the great Badr Forces began implementing the Sayyid al-Mursalin [Prophet Muhammad] operation. Our victorious forces stormed enemy positions on the heights and in valleys. They wiped out

their remnants, demolished their positions, destroyed their weapons and equipment, and turned everything into rubble.

Under field supervision from the II Army Corps headquarters under the command of Staff Lieutenant General Shawkat Ahmad 'Ata, the great Badr Forces, commanded by Staff Brigadier General Tariq Radi Hasan, succeeded in fulfilling all the operation's objectives. With the help of God, a 4 and 1/2 km long and 2 km wide area of the border plateau was liberated, and the most important border heights in it were seized. These include Heights 5,247, 290, 2,246, 273, 5,147, and all the other heights separating them. [Baghdad INA in Arabic at 0950 GMT and Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic at 1000 GMT report that only Heights 290 and 273 and those separating them were seized] The Al-Huriyyah border post was also captured.

Huge numbers of enemy scoundrels were wiped out or wounded and the bulk of the enemy forces from the 88th Armored Division was destroyed. Scores of enemy personnel were taken prisoner. The situation was completely settled in favor or our triumphant forces. This operation was supported by the heroic Dhu al-Fiqar Forces, as well as by our powerful artillery, our gigantic Air Force, and our bold helicopter gunships. [passage omitted]

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 July 1987

Iranian 'Heavy Losses' Noted

JN181559 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has stated that Iranian forces were not able to recapture a single inch of territory taken by Iraqi forces in the central sector last night.

Commenting on Iranian communiques that ignored the heavy losses sustained by Iranian forces during this battle, the military spokesman told INA that the large areas now controlled by Iraqi forces will give Iraq complete superiority over the Iranians in the Sumar Basin. He added that the Iranians are talking about a battle that exists only in their sick imaginations while ignoring their heavy losses, which amounted to thousands killed or wounded.

The Iraqi spokesman affirmed that Iraqi forces still control these areas and will continue to do so.

Communique No 2,749 Issued

JN181723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,749 issued by the Armed forces General Command on 18 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their combat activities against the aggressors. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force, which has the blessings of God, the glorious people, and the great leader, continues to deal crushing blows against the treacherous remnants on the battlefield, to their war machine, and to their vital targets and supply lines. The Air Force will always possess the honor of participating in every battlefield victory achieved by your victorious forces, O proud Iraqis. Your daring hawks dealt these blows to our country's enemies today and supported the heroic II Army Corps during the victorious Sayyid al-Mursalin operation. Through a series of daring air raids, the following was achieved:

A. With God's assistance, accurate and destructive blows were delivered against 72 enemy personnel positions. All the Khomeyniite scoundrels were killed.

B. With God's help, the enemy's air defenses were once again challenged. Our daring hawks dealt destructive blows to six surface-to-air Rapier missiles. Our hawks destroyed their targets and set them ablaze. Black clouds were observed rising over the attacked targets.

C. With God's assistance, destructive strikes were carried out against 15 enemy artillery positions. Explosions were observed in the area.

D. With God's help, 30 enemy positions sheltering equipment, vehicles, and personnel were destroyed over the heads of the Khomeyniite scoundrels. Seven truck trailers were also destroyed.

E. Our Air Force jets carried out 131 combat missions against enemy units, including the aforementioned. They also destroyed large numbers of enemy personnel, vehicles, and equipment in the central sector's operational theater. After carrying out these missions, our daring hawks returned safely and victoriously to the homeland. We congratulate you, O men of our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. God be praised for His victory.

2. The courageous knights of the helicopter gunships carried out 36 combat missions against enemy positions and troop concentrations, inflicting heavy losses. Our knights returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed nine enemy soldiers, wounded three others, and destroyed one vehicle and a number of infantry positions. Our patrols in no-man's-land captured seven Kalashnikov rifles, one 60-mm mortar gun, and one RPG-7 rocket launcher.

4. One of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris attacked a formation of enemy soldiers, destroying most of them. Elsewhere in this sector, four scoundrels were killed, three positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated.

5. One Poclain excavator, one DSHK machinegun, three positions, and two observation posts were destroyed and a number of enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Two enemy soldiers were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. To escape the repressive regime in Iran, a number of Iranian civilians took refuge at our forward positions. They were safely evacuated to the front's rear lines.

8. Using long-range artillery, the rancorous Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the brave city of Basra. The resulting casualties included four wounded civilians, including one woman, and damage to homes and property. May God grant our wounded citizens a swift recovery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 July 1987

Saddam Husayn Gives Revolution Day Address
JN161913 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 19th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution in Baghdad — live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Great Iraqis, on this glorious occasion of the 17-30 July Revolution anniversary, I extend to you greetings of love and pride. Today is the day the great revolution initiated a new era in Iraq's history, a history that covers thousands of years; a history that is replete with glorious pages and incidents with abundant lessons and meaning.

When a historical process such as that of our revolution succeeds in creating a new era in the history of a noble people like ours, it deserves to be a beacon of guidance and to be celebrated in a fitting manner.

Until 16 July 1968, Iraq did not have the political, economic, social, and cultural state of affairs that you are now experiencing. The state of affairs in Iraq at that time was so weak and so debilitated that had it foundered or its policy been confronted by obstacles, it would have been very difficult for our nation to have recovered.

Its condition had collapsed so completely that the conscience of history, the exigencies of the present, and the motivations of the future all turned into appeals exhorting the righteous to change this situation and asking the Iraqis: Is there a savior?

The political arena at the time was teeming with the activities of many movements, blocs, and parties of various hues and political affiliations. However, a distinctive trend emerged from all this activity that responded to Iraqi aspirations. This trend sincerely and faithfully told the Iraqis: O Iraqis, rejoice, for here we come! This was the Ba'thists' call. The revolution then took place, and the great new era of a glorious Iraq began.

Thus, the march to attain sublime objectives, guided by a clear ideology, was initiated. The struggle assumed new form and meaning, and the Iraqi people began to perform their role and fulfill their mission. Each of us became a part of this nation and of Iraq through our offerings and sincere struggle. This followed in the wake of the lethargy in which our fathers and forefathers had lived since the year 1258 [the Mongol invasion of Baghdad], or perhaps even before that, when they had worked only to achieve their owninterests, and those of their families, villages, and tribes.

When we add a new year to the revolution's age, we not only add another brick to a glorious edifice, but also fire an arrow into the hearts of the rancorous enemies who had conspired against the revolution. These people had utilized all their resources to liquidate the revolution in an effort to see it fail and disappear. Among these enemies are the masters of charlatanism, the rulers in Tehran, and those who have concluded alliances with them, aided them, and pledged allegiance to them.

We do not want to arrogantly compare our revolution to those of others. We have said from the beginning that every revolution has its own specific traits and circumstances. We have stated more than once that we respect the revolutions of others and that we understand them. We have demonstrated a sincere readiness, inspired by self-confidence, to interact with Arab, regional and international revolutions, and to benefit from them.

Our revolution has always been open-minded and tolerant. We have sought neither arrogance and pretense nor fallen into the trap of isolation and emulation. The Tehran rulers have plotted against our revolution and nation right from the start. These backward rulers — these charlatans — seized power with Zionist support and undercircumstances known only to Iran. They have unleashed all their hatred and hostility against Iraq and its revolution, as well as against the Arab nation. These rulers have used all possible evil and destructive methods against us. Interpreting our patience and tolerance as weakness and fear, they began the fire of aggression and war against us. They did so in an effort to kill this true and genuine Iraqi and Arab revolution. Our revolution seeks reconstruction and development for the well-being of Iraqis and Arabs. They thought that they could prevent the Arabs and the Iraqis from advancing. They thought that they could humiliate them and keep them backward and divided, to ensure that Zionism and shu'ubiyah [anti-Arab current] would dominate them and deprive them of the historic opportunity for freedom and progress.

The scoundrel Tehran rulers are colluding with world Zionism. Their paramount goal has always been to plot against the Iraqi revolution. They want to prevent our revolution from bearing witness to their conspiracy against Islam and the Arab nation. They do not want our revolution to serve as living proof of their false revolution, which was concocted in the lobbies of Zionism and shu'ubiyah. Their false revolution is based on charlatanism and buffoonery. It also exploits Islam, our great religion and mission to the world throughout the centuries.

Brothers, the success and prosperity of our revolution are not measured by its continuity, which in itself is a great achievement. Rather, these are measured by the ability of our revolution to give abundantly. From the very beginning our revolution has faced the most serous challenges ever encountered by Arabs and other world nations in modern history. This became especially true after the Zionist-shu'ubist clique seized power in Iran. The challenge took many forms; it was supported by enormous mate-

rial resources and involved many sides. Nevertheless, the revolution remained steadfast. It gave abundantly and developed its resources. The success of our revolution, brothers, is therefore measured by this continuous generosity in all fields. This is the case at a time when many other revolutions are stumbling and encountering hardship. Some of these revolutions are not even waging war or confronting the hardship and plots that we are facing.

Our revolution continues to work, to reconstruct, and to make rapid progress. Thus, it achieves a miracle that friend and foe alike have recognized. As I stated last year, the most important matter is that despite the passage of time, our revolution possesses an enormous power of rejuvenation. This rejuvenating quality enables it to take stock of its position and to resume the march toward new horizons of work, generosity, and creativity.

In accordance with the existence of constant development and progress, the revolution emphasized the need to establish a permanent bridge between the present and the ideal state, taking into consideration the type and timing of the change and the basic differences in the factors of experience, place, and time.

In defining the answer to the method and timing of development and change, steps backward are taken and mistakes are made. However, other steps forward are firmly undertaken, bolstered by the certainty that the correct thing is being done.

In accordance with such concepts, we find that what souls and minds now accept may not appear to be the ultimate state or the more correct road at another stage. This requires reconsideration on the path of change to ensure harmony with life in its constant change and forward transformation. It necessitates getting rid of the aberrant state that opposes change or has not caught up with it, and requires that one seek a leadership role to ensure that one will be a pioneer of total change in life.

Proceeding from such principles — and in view of the fact that man himself is in a state of constant qualitative change and development, both because he is part of the process of life's constant change and because he wants to play a leading role in this process — we have discovered that our administrative measures, the tasks of building the state's administrative structure, and the form of distributing duties and responsibilities among the socialist and mixed sectors and the cooperative and private activities have become inappropriate and inadequate and fall short of their required role.

For a long time we have been probing the way to establish the features of these requirements. In 1977 we began to adot certain measures on this path. As you recall, we initiated some attempts to review what was happening at what were then known as productivity seminars.

However, the results and goals of these seminars continued to be restricted by circumstances. They failed to reach a standard that would have reassured the soul and satisfied the mind with regard to development for that year.

Together with the leadership, we reviewed our adminstrative and productive situation in 1979. Before we were able to even begin to realize our intended goal, however, the war broke out. It is natural that this war should receive serious attention and that we should devote sufficient effort and time to run its affairs in accordance with our plans. It is also natural that we should devote ourselves to the details of this conflict, just as anyone who does not possess experience in this field is likely to do.

It has truly been a unique experience for an Arab country to combat invaders for 7 years without truce or pause, to have our ability to continue living during such a war be tested, and, indeed, for the laws of the revolution to be tested by wartime conditions and not only in conditions of peace.

The war has taken its share of our time and efforts. However, it has not diverted our attention from the duties expected by citizens under normal peacetime conditions in accordance with the aspirations of the revolution and its great leader, the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party. Having gained experience from this war and from the confrontation of aggression, we have returned to our old tasks. This experience has strengthened our ability to improve our lives. From 1980, when the war began, to 1987 we have continued to promulgate laws, issue orders, and take all sorts of measures to achieve progress and a better life. However, 1987 is the year of concentrated and comprehensive government effort in all walks of civilian life, especially the national economy.

Right from the very beginning, our party made it a point to strike a balance between life's need for a firm and principled doctrine and for progress, development, and the rejection of stagnation; between reality and the need to understand it as it is versus what the situation should be like. On the basis of our eternal heritage, together with the practical and theoretical resources of the revolution's sons, the revolution has succeeded in coping with development without compromising its principles and faith.

With this deep faith, we first raised the slogan: While you attempt the possible, do not forget your ambitions. Today, we complement this with the following slogan: While you work for the present, remember the future; while you are inspired by the spirit of the past, do not forget that your present extends to the future. Wherever you may be in the world, you must not forget that you are part of a wider world; and no matter how proud you are of your revolution and intellect, do not forget that you are part of this life and of humanity.

Brothers, in the 19th year of the revolution, and as it firmly proceeds toward its 20th year, we have begun a large-scale, determined, and resolute plan to rejuvenate our capabilities, exploit our resources, and forge ahead on the path of progress. This year we began a series of broad, radical measures that affected our national economy in agriculture, industry, public works, services, and other fields. Our objective is to release the Iraqi people's productive and creative resources and to remove the heavy adminstrative chains that shackle these resources.

Our objective in this respect is to realize justice in society. Our concept of justice is not that of absolute equality, or the protection of those who lag behind or those who do not produce or create. Justice means providing all Iraqis equal opportunities to advance, produce, and create. We reward those who advance, and we do not give those who lag behind or procrastinate more than they

deserve. Our Ba'thist concept of justice is not based on class distinction, for all Iraqis are equal before the law, the state, and the revolution. The only distinction we make between any two Iraqis is based on the services they offer to society. We evaluate the Iraqi citizen on this fair basis, regardless of what class he belongs to or what his social status was prior to the revolution.

Our system allows every citizen to move from one state to another. In the same way that the sons of workers, peasants, and the poor succeeded through their effort and diligence to assume power and to become ministers, governors, directors, and other state officials, any worker, peasant, or intellectual, regardless of class affiliation or occupation, can also honestly attain the positions to which they aspire in a legitimate manner if they work, produce, and excel. The individual is evaluated on the basis of his experience, not on what he possesses. He is evaluated on the basis of his intelligence, production, creativity, and sincerity in the field in which he works. We are doing our best to make this yardstick one that applies to society as a whole. The best Iraqis are those who are patriots — honest, sincere, productive, and creative — and those who always progress.

Brothers, in the revolution's last 19 years, particularly those following our success in nationalizing our oil production and increasing our revenue, we have invested tens of billions of dinars in agriculture, industry, education, services, and other vital sectors. During the past stage, we have evoted our efforts to building a modern infrastructure in these fields. We once evaluated the officials in charge and their employees on their success in constructing this infrastrucure. The efficient officials and workers are those who have completed the construction of plants or projects in record time. We have so far achieved great strides on this road. A solid infrastructure has been established in the agricultural, industial, educational, and service sectors of Iraq. The stage through which we are now passing is the optimal exploitation of this infrastructure to ensure that it provides us with an important portion of our agricultural, industrial, and service sector needs, thus reducing imports and decreasing our foreign currency expenditures. This will put Iraq at the start of a sound course, allowing it to become an exporter of these products. Real economic prosperity will thus be attained by a prosperous economy that is able to progress and develop.

An economy based on exhausting oil revenues is a fragile economy, one that is vulnerable to many developments resulting from changes in the oil market and the world economy. In the past year, the price of one barrel of oil dropped from $28 to $7, while the value of the dollar fell by one-third. We must learn an eloquent lesson about the administration of national economic affairs from last year's experience. We must guarantee consistent agricultural, industrial, and service sector production that is not seriously affected by the oil market, fluctuations in the world economy, or other games that take place in this world.

As for our oil revenues, which have improved this year and which will continue to improve in the future, they must be directed primarily toward meeting the deficiencies in our basic needs and toward investment in order to complete our modern base for development in various fields.

That, brothers, is the primary domestic task during the 20th year of our revolution. I call on all state officials and employees and on all Iraqis working in the private sector to work harder, to be more productive, and to be more progressive and creative. We are proceeding to enact legislation and to adopt measures that will facilitate this task. As we live through this experience, we must be frank and scientific. We must not hesitate to point out a mistake, even if it is committed by ranking government or party officials. We must enjoy the bold, frank, and constructive Iraqi spirit that is anxious to fulfill the country's higher interests and to rise above subjective cover-ups and courtesies.

The new task facing us requires precision, objectivity, frankness, and boldness in telling the truth about everything connected with the law's power and the correctness of old measures or those which we are about to enact and carry out. We must also work meticulously and tirelessly persevere to complete our national tasks of construction and to defend the great edifice and our higher values.

Brothers, this past year was special with regard to our confrontation of the Iranian aggression against our country. This, the revolution's 20th year, will also be special. It will complete our national task of confronting aggression and of compelling the aggressor to accept a comprehensive and just peace.

At this time last year I spoke to you about what the lying charlatans, the rulers of Tehran, were calling for and what they were dreaming. Their collusion with Zionism had reached an advanced stage. They were also imagining that they had come very close to achieving some of their expansionist dreams by occupying Basra as a prelude to seizing all of Iraq — may they fall into disgrace — and thus justifying their having kindled the fires of war against Iraq and their aggression against it. By this they thought that they could also justify their insistence on continuing this conflict and aggression for so many years, as well as the destruction and devastation that have befallen their people and nation. They began to threaten and promise the year of decisiveness and the final battle. Their Zionist allies and their helpers, who claim to be Arabs, spread these threats widely in an effort to provoke regional fear and unrest, so that the region would tremble in the face of a threat that appeared to be very great and serious.

When the scandal of their collaboration with Israel and their acquisition of U.S. arms by cheap means was exposed, they were seen for what they really are — charlatans and liars who are prepared to permit what is forbidden to achieve their evil ambitions and vile objectives. They decided not to delay their attack, but to commmit all their resources.

Their large offensives, which began on 24 December 1986, were smothered within 40 hours of epic fighting. On 10 January, they returned with large forces and launched a great offensive unprecedented in the war's history. This offensive lasted for several months. As I stated on an earlier occasion, the whole of Iran seemed to have congregated in the small east Al-Basrah area.

The liars massed 300,000 men, but they were confronted by the Iraqis, grandsons of Al-Faruq, Sa'd, and Ibn Ja'far al-Mansur [commanders of early Islamic conquests]. The Iraqis fought

bravely. There, on the pure soil of Iraq, the greatest of epic battles was fought between the army of justice — the army of faith and peace — and the forces of charlatanism, buffoonery, and aggression. As you already know, the result was the failure of the Tehran leaders' plans and delusions, including those woven by the Zionists and the enemies of the Arabs who, unfortunately, include other Arabs who share this charlatanism.

There, near Basra, the greatest of cities, Khomeyni's Zionist-shu'ubist dream was shattered. Khomeyni's dream was to occupy a part of great Iraq, to establish a Zionsit-shu'ubist state, to threaten Iraq, and to dominate the entire Gulf region. Khomeyni thought that he could bolster his black rule and that Zionism would use international lobbies to help turn its Iranian allies into a dominant regional force with all the consequent negative effects on international affairs. With their faith, resolution, endurance, and competence, the Iraqis alone were able to destroy and shatter these Iranian forces and to disrupt their evil plans. The Tehran rulers were thus even further bogged down in their dark dilemma as a result of their insistence on war. As usual, these liars tried to cover up their failure with belligerency, threats, provocations, piracy, and terrorism, thereby creating a very grave situation in the Arab Gulf with this reckless policy.

We know why this suspect regime began its aggression against us when it came to power. It began its armed aggression against our country on 4 September 1980, at a time when we were in dire need of peace and stability in order to continue our development plan and to build a new Iraq. They used their hatred against Iraq and the Arabs to destroy this great revolution, a revolution which is proud of its Iraqi and Arab traits and which has aspired to true and firm progress in the life of Iraqis and Arabs.

We also know who instigated the Iranian clique, who aided it, and who saved it whenever it was about to drown. Having failed in its objective to destroy Iraq and its unique revolution, the Iranian enemy resorted to a war of attrition in order to destroy this beloved country both morally and materially.

We have warned the world powers: Do not think that the war's continuation will weaken the Iraqi people's willpower. This people, who possess a civilization more than 5,000 years old, will not give in to the barbaric yellow wind blowing from Tehran and Qom. We have warned them that the continuation of the conflict in this sensitive region is bound to have bad consequences. We told them: There will come a time when you will find yourselves in a difficult situation, in a serious one in fact, and you might not be able to control its outcome. Therefore, you must not continue your negative attitude with regard to the continuation of this war. You must not simply issue statements on the need to end the conflict. A strong, coordinated international action is needed to contain this hostile barbarism, which becomes more arrogant and destructive with appeasement. As for us, we have now overcome its danger for a long time. We have succeeded in confining it to our border and in preventing its spread. By advocating peace, Iraq acts out of its sense of responsibility and concern for the present and future of the region's nations, as well as its desire to end the bloodshed involving our righteous sons.

Throughout the years of war since the aggression against us began, and despite the dangers and hardships we have encountered during this time, we have held firmly to our political stand, to the defense of our nation and our rights, to the principles of peace and justice, to international responsibility, and to the sound balance in our international relations. Our persistent efforts in international forums — in the ICO, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations — and at all international meetings affirming the call for a just and comprehensive peace, as well as our responsible adherence to the principles of international law and our spirit assumption of international responsibilities, have produced many positive results. With the passage of time, an Arab and international stand has been formed that understands, appreciates, and supports Iraq's position.

We have followed with interest the initiative begun some months ago by the Security Council's five permanent members on adopting a new, comprehensive, and binding resolution to end the war. The Arab stand adopted at the latest Arab League Council meeting and the activities of the seven-member committee played a prominent role in encouraging this initiative. Other fraternal Arab states were also important players in this issue. The initiative has now reached an advanced stage.

We want to take this occasion to emphasize and clarify our stand to ensure that it will be unambiguous. Iraq, which was the victim of aggression from the very start, has called for a just and comprehensive peace. Iraq has not changed its stand as a result of military developments. Therefore, we will continue to follow our original stand on this issue, regardless of the circumstances. Iraq has cooperated with international organizations, including the UN Security Council. We have accepted its resolutions because it wants peace and because it feels a responsibility with regard to its duties, the region, and the world. However, Iraq will only accept a comprehensive peace. We want a peace that will eliminate all the elements of aggression and war. We defined this stand in the five points of 2 August 1980; we declared these principles. We also declared our acceptance of the elements of a comprehensive settlement stipulated in Security Council Resolution 582 of 1986.

We warn against any attempt to fragment this war, to divide it into areas, or to concentrate on one aspect of the conflict while excluding others. We consider such attempts to be suspect. They seek to perpetuate the war and to encourage Iran's propensity for aggression. Their intention is to maintain a state of unrest and instability in the region. I state frankly and openly: Any resolution by any international entity or by the Security Council which does not include elements for a comprehensive settlement or which conflicts with the five principles we defined on 2 August 1986 and the provisions of Security Council Resolution 582 will not be accepted by Iraq. We possess the determination, the ability, and the legitimacy necessary to support our stand to continue the struggle against aggression and the aggressor until conditions for a comprehensive and just peace are available.

Iraq has always affirmed its desire for peace and demonstrated its wisdom and sense of responsibility. Therefore, no party should exploit Iraq's wisdom and sense of responsibility. The aggressor who has insisted on continuing the war and aggression for 7 years must realize that his persistence and all his foolish actions give him no privileges. We will firmly and strongly oppose anyone who tries to give privileges to the aggressor and fool.

The Tehran rulers initiated the aggression and war when they came to power. They launched an armed aggression against our country before, during, and after 4 September 1986. We challenged them from the beginning to resort to Islamic arbitration, to the Nonaligned Movement, and to the United Nations. We proposed this in order to determine who launched the aggression and war, as well as who is continuing it. The Tehran rulers rejected this challenge. In past years, they have insisted on war. This clearly proves that they initiated the aggression and the war and that such an evil and failed regime cannot continue to survive except through war, aggression, and destruction. Brothers, you remember the first days and months of the war and recall the confusion it created among many public opinion circles, both Arab and foreign. Some of these feigned a lack of knowledge and information, while others really were confused and misinformed. However, the long years of the war have revealed all the facts. The Iranian aggression was proven historically and the Iranian regime's suspect trends were confirmed. They were unmasked as agents of Zionism and rapacious aliens. They were proven to be evil invaders bent on expansion, prompted by their rancorous souls and grudges.

The traits of Iranian officials have been unmasked and their responsibility for launching and continuing the aggression has become clear and unmistakable, especially after they extended their aggression to the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. They have tried to interfere in the internal affairs of these countries, as well as others; they have violated their territorial waters, airspace, and territory; and they have harmed their economic interests more than once over the past 7 years. Iran indeed incriminated itself when it attacked the interests of states that are not a party to this conflict, thus flouting all acceptable norms, conventions, and justifications. This established Iran's aggression as an indisputable fact. Such a regime will not only be punished by history; its behavior will also create assets for Iraq which will aid it in its relations with Iran and regional states both now and in the future.

O Iraqi men and women! O heroes of the Armed Forces! Your achievements in the field of construction while steadfastly confronting aggression are the fruit of your long struggle and determination to provide conditions for progress and strength. Today we feel that our steadfastness, efforts, and firm principles have borne fruit and have foiled the plans of the aggressors, thanks to the sons and daughters of Iraq. This is the result of the efforts being exerted by all Iraqis on their farms, in factories, at schools, and in all state departments. This is due to the various activities and the various branches of production, services, and health. This is the result of the battles waged by our men on land, at sea, and in the air. You have proven that you are a living people. Your have renewed the ancient Iraqi history and culture, which extends thousands of years. The enemy could not weaken you, and his plots and schemes will not succeed in bending your will or expunging your efforts, God willing, as long as you possess this determination, firmness, and generosity. You are the object of admiration of the whole world. Despite the enemy's attempts to smother and to conceal your great experiment and distinguished role, some fair observers admit this role from time to time.

In the Arab world, Iraq has become a symbol, and the Iraqis have become an example and a paragon to be emulated. We are enjoying this glory with humility and a true affiliation with the Arab nation. Now that the chances for a just and comprehensive peace and the defeat of aggression seem closer than ever, your strength, O men of the Armed Forces, has not proved wanting; your patience is not running out; and your determination has not weakened. Your enemy, who has massed thousands upon thousands of knaves who are defeated from within and whose heads were filled with rancor and the desire to destroy, is now realizing that your firm resolve, strong will, and great combat skill are able to crush their barbaric human waves one after the other.

You have instilled feelings of frustration and defeat in the hearts of the enemies. The awkward regime, which is issuing hollow threats and claims following its defeats in the Great Day Battle, the Big Harvest Battles, the Birthday Battle, and the northern battles, is now breathing its last breath. Its insistence on war and its practice of pushing waves of mobs and defeated knaves to the crematorium of death do not indicate real strength despite its stupid slogans. All of this expresses a feeling of frustration and bitterness.

This backward, evil, and aggressive regime has no way out except through war, aggression, lies, and connivance with Zionism and the Arab nation's enemies. An objective comparison between the claims of this supect regime at the beginning of the aggression 7 years ago and its present condition affirms the importance of your achievements, O glorious sons and daughters of Iraq. It proves your moral and material superiority and that your present and future strength is guaranteed. It also proves that this regime is slipping back into the quagmire of defeat and ignominy.

O great men of our heroic Armed Forces, last year we survived the most dangerous and deepest experiments of war. In the Great Day Battle, the Great Harvest Battles, and the Birthday Battle, as well as other campaigns such as the northern battles, we engaged in encounters which the enemy wished to be decisive. These encounters really were decisive in nature. After long years of war, the enemy thought that by massing great numbers of mobs on a narrow front and employing successive human waves, it could change the situation in its favor. The enemy imagined that launching offensives in various forms on many sectors would disintegrate our war effort and confuse our defensive measures. Your great and splendid men were capable of foiling all these dreams and plots. When the two sides clashed on the proud territory of Al-Basrah — the Iraqi side was filled with the nation's spirit and high morale, while the Iranian-Zionist side was full of the spirit of evil — you transformed this territory into a great expanse of fire that burned the renegades and invaders. You fought and fought and fought. Your great-grandfathers are turning in their graves with pride. You fought one wave after another until they were all destroyed and decimated. You then proceeded to clash with the enemy in various other sectors and defeated his useless attempts.

Our strong will, sound measures, and profound experience in the ranks of military command — an experience we have gained from the war — have enabled our heroic Armed Forces to reach such a level of readiness and efficiency that it is able to confront all eventualities. If the enemy believes that by continuing its

rejection of peace it will change the balance of power, then it is only adding another illusion to its illusions.

Despite the large number of troops amassed by the enemy east of Al-Basrah and the campaigns of charlatanism and pressure on the Iranian people in all cities and villages which accompanied this massing of troops, the mobilization of our forces to confront this was greater in number than the troops amassed by the enemy, God be thanked. Our forces which engaged the enemy had a huge reserve behind them that was ready for battle. We succeeded in maintaining this superiority and strengthened it with additional men, training, weapons, and experience. We are continuing our efforts to develop the Armed Forces' weaponry and military hardware and to invent weapons and military equipment that will promote our combat abilities. We made great achievements in the war industry this year. Iraq has become a producer of many of its own military needs thanks to the efforts being exerted by its sons and thanks to its own resources. Iraq no longer deals with weapons from the receiving end alone. It is now developing weapons in accordance with its circumstances and needs. If the regime of charlatanism and quackery insists on prolonging the war and on rejecting calls for a just and honorable peace, then it will find that Iraq possesses far greater capabilities than those which it utilized in previous battles. It will also find that Iraq possesses new potential, not only in the military field but in all fields where we have attained qualitative superiority. This potential will further contribute to the defeat of the Iranian regime before the Iraqis and the world at large. The Iranian regime will find that its own potential has decreased in all fields.

Brothers, on anniversaries which are dear to our hearts, as well as on great occasions, our beloved sons, the producers of glory, deserve to be greeted with love and pride. Men of the Armed Forces, whether you are in trenches, in fortified positions, the rear lines, or in the air and at sea, your defense of the land, its principles, and its sovereignty has won you the admiration and respect of all. You have protected Iraq's honor and the Arab nation's dignity. You fought with skill and courage; you have been patient and offered sacrifices. You performed heroic feats and scored great achievements. Your homeland respects and values your achievements. Your Arab nation is proud of you and the entire world admires your feats. History will record your achievements and your heroism with admiration and appreciation. If each of you epitomizes heroism, then the various branches of this great Army will achieve feats that will provide lessons with many meanings of courage, initiative, and excellent performance. Thanks to you and to the Popular Army, we have deterred the frustrated enemy, crushed its barbaric human waves, and protected our lofty borders. O glorious men, may God bless you.

What we can rightfully be proud of with regard to our achievements on the road to progress and development are those gained in the war industries. The Iraqis can boast of these achievements. What has been produced and manufactured in this field, as well as what has been developed, demonstrates that the workers in this area possess unique abilities and skill. It shows how creative and assiduous they are, not to mention what these achievements mean in terms of development for the modern organization of the Armed Forces and the war industry in particular, and on the level of industrial development in general. May God bless these great and unique efforts. We greet the creative workers in this field and admire and are proud of their work.

We celebrate this occasion while the spirits of our martyrs surround us. They are the symbols of sacrifice and their memories will remain alive forever, prompting us to build a bright future in the land of Iraq. O martyrs, you have safeguarded the glory and sovereignty of great Iraq. You have protected its principles and have prevented enemies from desecrating this great land. You have elevated the values of sacrifice and altruism and have preserved the tradition of sincerity to your kinfolk, nation, and principles. You will remain with us in our struggle, a paragon of steadfastness, a great example of sacrifice, and a symbol of our determination to highlight truth in line with our principles. Your immense sacrifices have strengthened the meaning of chivalry, courage, and sacrifice. In each home you are the symbol of pride for fathers, brothers, sisters, mothers, and wives. You signify a promise for perpetual victory and good tidings for future generations. Throughout Iraq you are an example of heroism and a banner of glory and dignity. You may rest assured, for Iraq, for which you sacrificed your lives, will remain dignified and honored. The head of the Arab nation will remain high in glory and dignity.

Greetings of pride and appreciation to the Iraqis on their revolution anniversary. This is due to their immense sacrifices for their revolution and battle. Their sacrifice, generosity, and continuous efforts have played a great role in Iraq's steadfastness, heroism, and decisive victory.

While the Iraqi people's sacrifices are living evidence of their sincerity, faith, and love for principles, the sacrifices of Iraqi women top all other great and eternal deeds. They have recorded the greatest epics of courage, patience, and faith in the history of our nation. O Iraqi women, your sacrifices and efforts make you an example of courage and generousity. You have been a mother, a wife, a daughter, and a sister to the brave fighters. You have urged them to take initiatives and to make sacrifices; you have alleviated the suffering of soldiers who emerge from the dust of battles and combat. You have encouraged martyrdom. You are worthy of admiration and you must enjoy victory. We congratulate you on your high standard and lofty position.

O Iraqis, your attitude has been a decisive factor for victory and progress in all fields. Your despicable enemy is bogged down in the quagmire of humiliation and shame, pursued by the curses of history and humanity. The glorious 7 years of steadfastness against the Iranian invasion and your sacrifices, efforts, heroism, and great combat deeds make me confident that our march is on the threshold of victory and will realize its cherished aims. Such are our people's sacrifices and traits, with their long history and civilization. They will not accept a life other than one of victory and progress.

Glory to you, Iraqi men and women, on your revolution anniversary. We congratulate you on your honorable and dignified life. May God grant you victory and realize your wishes. God's blessings and peace be upon you.

U.S. Says Citizens 'Harassed' by Airport Officials

Pickering Promoting Sanction

TA170733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Talk in the studio between program moderator Shalom Qital and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami — live]

[Text] [Qital] Our opening item this morning sounds rather odd in view of the nature of Israeli-U.S. relations: The United States will advise its citizens not to visit Israel. Is this possible? Whatever the case may be, the United States is threatening to include Israel on the list of countries it does not advise its citizens to visit. Israel might be tainted with this stigma as a result of pressure by American Palestinians, who claim that they are being harassed by Israel when they come here to visit. The impression in Jerusalem is that Ambassador Thomas Pickering is behind this initiative. An official at the Israeli Embassy in Washington was summoned to the U.S. State Department last night to discuss the issue. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, is there really such an initiative?

[Ben-'Ami] There is such an initiative which is threatening Israel like a knife poised at its throat. The United States, whose immigration authorities are known for their rigidity, is threatening to take far-reaching measures against Israel for what is being termed by Washington as rigid and inappropriate behavior to the point of discrimination on the part of Israel toward American citizens.

What are we talking about? The reference is to a few dozen complaints by American citizens of Palestinian origin, holding American passports, who said that they had come to Israel to visit their relatives. According to them, they were mistreated, were asked to open their luggage and reply to questions by interrogators and, in certain cases, were asked to leave their passports at the airport and get laissez-passer certificates instead. In a few cases, they were even sent back to the United States.

Israel has explained that these were security checks based on intelligence information on the intention of American Palestinians to stay in Judaea and Samaria. Other instances of rough treatment were registered with regard to American blacks, members of the Black Hebrews sect. They arrive here with their American passports and the authorities treat them very strictly in view of their plans to renounce their American citizenship so that they cannot be deported to the United States.

The sanction the Americans threaten to enforce is to include Israel on the list of countries which the State Department does not recommend as staes welcoming U.S. citizens, or a travel advisory [last two words in English] as it is known in diplomatic jargon. The list of countries against which a travel advisory has been issued includes Iran, Tanzania, Panama, and Tibet. Such a recommendation discredits a country and deals a lethal blow to its tourism business. Israel explained that what is at question here is several dozen security checks conducted because of our sensitivity to the issue; that thousands of American tourists who come here are greeted with open arms; and that Israel has unilaterally forgone the demand for entry visas whereas the United States requires a visa from any Israeli tourist.

Jerusalem has diagnosed the U.S. State Department's position as having been caused by a Palestinian lobby group. Ambassador Thomas Pickering urged Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to assign a senior official in his office to deal with the matter. Jerusalem regards the ambassador's conduct as contributing to the promotion of the U.S. threat. Moreover, his attitude to the Arab issue and the territories is surprising. Pickering also imposes strict restrictions on U.S. officials and dignitaries visiting Israel. For example, a visit to the National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem by a group of senatorial aides was canceled only recently under orders from the ambassador. The Americans wanted to see an exhibit of antiterrorist warfare equipment. A visit was arranged for them at the National Police Headquarters in East Jerusalem, and they agreed to it. However, the visit was then canceled at the ambassador's instructions.

Jerusalem is now waiting to see what direction the U.S. rigidity will take, for it might seriously affect the volume of American tourists this summer.

Beilin To Check Airport Procedures

TA181846 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Beilin says he will personally look into the security and check procedures at Ben-Gurion Airport. This after complaints by the U.S. over what it sees as discrimination against Palestinian and black Americans at the airport.

Peres Reacts to U.S. Complaints

TA190451 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Beilin is to convene interministerial consultations today to discuss the way Israel should react to U.S. complaints about unnecessary delays and harassment of U.S. blacks and Americans of Arab origin visiting Israel.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres responded to this last night. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht heard his reaction:

[Begin recording] [Peres] The only restrictions that I know of are due to security reasons and have nothing to do with race, color, or nationality.

[Hecht] Have you received complaints from the United States on this matter?

[Peres] I received a memo from the U.S. ambassador about the black Hebrews but not about the other issues. [end recording]

Beilin on Complaints, Response

TA191710 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by Rafi Reshef on the "New Evening" program — live in studio]

[Text] [Reshef] Dr Beilin, the obvious question is: What sort of special checks are we making on U.S. citizens of Palestinian origin that have so angered U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering?

[Beilin] There is a significant difference between Israel and the United States with regard to immigration matters and travel to the two countries. The United States demands a visa from every Israeli who arrives in the United States. We do not demand a visa for Americans who arrive in Israel. Consequently, when the Americans reach Israel we only make those checks which the Americans themselves generally make before they grant a visa to anyone traveling to the United States.

[Reshef] Yes, but we do not do this to every American, just to Americans of Palestinian origin and blacks who we think will join the Black Hebrews sect.

[Beilin] It is true that there is a problem here with several communities. There is a special fear that they will remain in Israel; that they are pretending to be tourists but will remain as permanent residents. There are 5,000 residents of the West Bank who arrived as tourists but eventually settled there. There are also more than 1,000 Black Hebrews, most or all of whom arrived as tourists. We have every right, just as all countries do, to check them meticulously and to guarantee that they do not become permanent residents.

[Reshef] What special checks do we make on Americans of Palestinian origin? What do we do? A special check, using instruments such as metal detectors, making them undress? What makes our attitude toward them special when compared with, for instance, an American of Norwegian origin?

[Beilin] The problem is not a body search of one sort or another, but in making as certain as possible that these people have something to return to, that they have employment. The same is ascertained for Israelis who ask for visas to Canada or the United States; namely, that they have employment in their place of residence and have no intention of remaining. All of them undergo this. This is a matter of less than 1 in 1,000 out of some 120,000 U.S. residents or citizens who come to Israel — the reference is to some 100,000 a year, some of whom are dealt with specially and who have to deposit some sort of guarantee...

[Reshef, interrupting] For reasons of security? For Palestinians, or those of Palestinian origin, are the reasons ones of security?

[Beilin] In my opinion, as far as I understand it a minority of cases involve security reasons. In most cases, there is a well-founded belief that they intend to remain in Israel.

[Reshef] Who is behind the complaint about us? The Arab lobby that is developing in Washington?

[Beilin] To tell you the truth, I am not interested in the question of who is behind this. What interests me is the problem of the U.S. ambassador to Israel coming along and presenting such a problem. Then they [not further specified] go to the Israeli representation in the United States and say: Dear friends, we would like you to deal with such and such an issue. We in Israel then have to deal with this issue with the appropriate seriousness, provide the suitable answer, and if there is any room to make any sort of alteration to the procedure, to make it.

[Reshef] It turns out that the United States is considering the possibility of including us on a very small list of countries that are apparently considered quite dishonorable, the ones it recommends that its citizens not visit. Do you regard this as an anti-Israeli act by Pickering?

[Beilin] I do not regard any such act by Pickering as an anti-Israeli act. I am not prepared to accuse him of any such thing under any circumstances. I am not enthusiastic about this idea. I think that following the decisions we made today, the threat you mentioned will be removed.

[Reshef] What decisions did you make today?

[Belin] We made a decision, among others, that a senior-level representative from either the Ministry of Tourism or, alternatively, the Foreign Ministry, will be at the airport 24 hours a day — and the main problem is at Ben-Gurion Airport — to provide answers to unusual problems that sometimes arise regarding these communities. We agreed that every person about whom there is a problem or anyone we wish to send back to the United States will be given the chance of telephoning from the airport either to the consulate, an attorney, or whomever he wants to deal with his affairs. We made a decision to appeal to the Americans that they appoint a specific person from the embassy to deal with this matter and whom it will be possible to turn to 24 hours a day. We also proposed that an Israeli interministerial group be in constant touch with representatives of the embassy, with periodical and predetermined meetings, to deal with these matters.

[Reshef] Do you believe that this will answer the U.S. complaint and soothe Pickering?

[Beilin] I am sure of it, because the issue is really not a substantial one. It is a very marginal matter. At the same time, if there is U.S. sensitivity we must understand it. It seems to me that these answers do not, of course, harm any of our security or emigration interests and will provide a solution to the humanitarian issue, which has been the main problem.

Antipov To Be Replaced; Group Could Stay Longer

TA190808 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Jul 87 p 2

[Report by No'am Berkowitz, Ilan Kfir, Fa'iz 'Abbas, and 'Ofer Teller from New York]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yevgeniy Antipov, the head of the Soviet consular delegation currently in Israel, will soon be replaced by another Soviet diplomat. Jerusalem believes that this development signifies an attempt by the Soviets to examine the possiblity of the delegation remaining in Israel for a longer period.

According to assessments in Jerusalem, the Soviet consular delegation could become a permanent representation with full consular and limited diplomatic authority, in accordance with explicit instructions from Moscow. So far no political contact has been made between the Soviet delegation and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. For the moment, the Soviet delegation is working at the consular level only. At this stage, its work primarily involves issuing entry visas to Jews originally from the Soviet Union who want to pay a return visit to "their homeland." [passage omitted]

Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid Arrives; Calls for Conference

TA200832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid arrived on a visit to Israel about an hour ago. At the airport, he said that one should not miss the opportunity to make progress in the peace process and called on the Israeli Government and people to help in the efforts being made to promote this process. 'Abd al-Majid declared that Egypt will continue to work toward convening an international conference before the end of the year. Such a conference will provide the first opportunity to establish peace between Israel and all its neighbors.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who received his Egyptian counterpart, noted that Egypt is currently the only country in the Middle East that can talk with both the Jewish and Arab sides. Mr Peres lauded the rehabilitation of the Egyptian economy, society, and infrastructure under President Mubarak's regime. This regime aspires to establish peace for present and future generations.

In addition to Mr Peres, the Egyptian guest was also received by Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The Egyptian foreign minister will be received in Jerusalem by the president of the state at noon. However, a meeting scheduled to take place at the King David Hotel between the Egyptian guest and members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will be canceled. Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel instructed the committee members not to attend the meeting, saying that presidents and prominent figures come to the Knesset building for meetings with its members. Hilel will also not attend a dinner which Foreign Minister Peres is giving in honor of the Egyptian minister at the King David Hotel this evening.

To Meet Palestinian Notables

TA190813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will meet with a group of notables from the territories on Wednesday. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the meeting was initiated by the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv. This will be the first time since the Camp David accords that Palestinians from the territories will be meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who is among the notables to participate in the meeting, said that he will encourage the Egyptian minister to make an effort to bring about an international conference.

Officials from East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip will also attend the meeting.

AL-ITTIHAD Report on Meeting

JN181859 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 16 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will meet with a number of prominent Palestinian figures in the occupied territory on 21 July during his official visit to the Zionist entity, scheduled to begin early next week. Informed sources told *Al-Ittihad* in occupied Jerusalem that this meeting will take place at the Egyptian ambassador's residence. The Palestinian figures are Fayiz Abu Rahmah, dean of Gaza lawyers; Mahmud Abu al-Zuluf, owner and editor in chief of the Jerusalem daily *Al-Quds*; Mustafa al-Natshah, mayor of Hebron; and Hikmat al-Masri [Nabulus figure and former member of the Jordanian House of Representatives].

Peres Comments on Election Prospects, Soviet Ties

TA170645 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jul 87 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Benny Morris, Ya'aqov Re'u'el, and David Landau on 16 July; place not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday that a Labour-Likud agreement for early elections in February might be possible and, alternatively, that Labour would join Tehiya in support of a Knesset motion for early elections, should Tehiya present one.

Peres also suggested that the visiting Soviet consular mission has a mandate from Moscow to discuss political affairs in Israel but for the time being has preferred to stick to its "consular" designation.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Peres said that the possibility of a Labour-Likud agreement on elections "must be checked," apparently referring to a suggestion by the Likud's Social Affairs Minister Moshe Qatzav that elections be held in April.

Peres defined as "nonsense" the possibility that MAPAM would vote against an early poll if Tehiya and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] come around to supporting one. He conceded that there was a "risk" of a narrow Likud-led coalition emerging from the process but said that "the risk must be taken."

He said the Likud's interest in early elections was fourfold: It's foolish to believe that a narrow government can be set up; it's foolish to believe that if one were set up it could rule the country effectively; the peace process, contrary to all their predictions, has continued; and the Knesset might vote for early elections at any moment (against the will of the Likud)."

Peres noted that Labour's campaign in support of the international peace conference idea had gained 400,000 signatures, and, with further campaigning, "would get more" public support.

Peres described last week's U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva on the Middle East as "interesting." The Soviets, he said, had been "surprised by the amount of support for the process in the Middle East." The Russians were now speaking against a "coercive conference" and against "a conference with veto (powers)," and were agreeable to "negotiations within bilateral committees. This represents a certain measure of progress by the Soviets."

Peres declined to say anything about the lack or extent of American support and supportive activity on behalf of the conference idea. "I am fighting here, on my own land, in my own theatre. I have never proposed to the Americans to take part in Israeli politics. On the contrary, I say: Be objective about (Israeli political) party matters but don't be neutral on the matters of peace. Don't mix the two things."

Regarding Israel's conditions for Soviet participation in the conference, Peres said that "the Americans have now told the Russians that these are (also) American conditions, Mrs Thatcher has said the same, the whole of the West has lined up in support (of the Israeli conditions)."

Peres reiterated the condition of an exchange of ambassadors but declined to state what size Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union would meet the second Israeli condition, of "open gates." "Certainly many more than (are leaving) now," he said.

Have the Soviets "disappointed" us in their lack of movement towards meeting Israel's conditions? "If you want, I can say they have disappointed [us]. But if you wish, I can also say that they have surprised us (favourably). They increased the number of exits, they allow Jews to study for the rabbinate, they (re-) opened the synagogues, they've released the Prisoners of Zion, save for one. At the same time, they have disappointed (us). It's a balance."

Peres added: "Perhaps they think that we too have been a disappointment. They too have complaints. They say, how is it that a small country poses such difficult conditions to a great power? My response to this is: We are not posing conditions that concern a great power. We are posing conditions that concern the small country. We're not posing conditions about what they should do in Afghanistan; we are posing conditions... that concern Israel."

Regarding the conditions — embassies and aliya — Peres says: "You want to participate in making peace between us and the Arabs? First make (your) peace with us. They say that Soviet Jews are an internal Soviet matter. I say: You have the right to care for the Palestinian people? We have the right to look out for the interests of the Jewish people. This is our family, our brothers and sisters. What (connection) is there between you and the Palestinians?"

Lastly, the Soviets argue that Israel wants an international conference that is merely ceremonial. "I say, no, the function of the conference is to give legitimacy to the (bilateral) negotiations, not to replace them. And legitimization is a matter of first-class importance. Talleyrand once said that apart from war, legitimacy is the most important means of foreign policy."

Question: In 1973, Israel agreed to Soviet participation in an international conference in Geneva without making conditions.

"Then, they just came. They were invited, and they came. And then there was mass (Soviet Jewish) emigration, some 40,000 left."

Question: And if now the Soviets were to allow mass emigration?

"I have said that between the two subjects, of re-establishment of ties and aliya, aliya comes first."

But Peres rejected with a flat "no" the possibility of Israel accepting a gradual, graduated process of establishing ties with the Soviets as sufficient to meet Israel's condition. "I accept a graduated process, but not as regards the relations between us and the Soviet Union. Was the severance of relations with us done gradually? What favours are they doing us? All we are talking about" — and here Peres quoted Gorbachev — "is normalizing our relations."

Peres defined the issues in dispute with the Soviet Union regarding the conference as follows: "They want an on-going conference. We want an international opening and then direct talks.

"Second, and I am not sure they still insist on this, they said that the Palestinian issue must be multilaterally discussed. We say it is a bilateral subject, between us and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"Then, there is no agreement on Palestinian representation. And finally there is no agreement on our two conditions. On this they said they would open talks with us."

How does Shamir relate to the Soviet subject? "It interests him. But he remains dogmatically opposed to the international conference concept. He says all the time that we must act on the Russian issue, but I don't know what he means, how."

Peres notes that the visiting Soviet groups insists on "a low profile, only consular affairs, property, capitalist matters only interest them. Okay, we'll play it low profile. Why should I inflate their ego? They can talk politics, they have a mandate for this. But they want all the time to be in a position of denying it. That's

the whole game. So if the Arabs ask: What's going on? They can say: It's nothing."

Peres believes that it is "possible" that the Soviets will meet Israel's terms "but it is going to be (a) difficult (process). But is it conceivable that Israel will negotiate with the Soviets and not raise the subject of Soviet Jewry?"

Many, perhaps most, of the new Soviet 'olim [new immigrants] are not supporters of Labour? "Look, I prefer Jews who don't support me living in Israel to Jews who support me living in the diaspora."

Peres declined to comment for the record about the progress in Israeli-Hungarian negotiations for the opening of interest section-level ties between the two countries. But he indicated optimism regarding Hungary — and much more circumspection regarding Yugoslavia.

Peres defined Thatcher as "as friendly as Shultz. All the way. She's the most friendly British prime minister ever. The first to come on a state visit, took a clear position against the PLO. Now supports all our position (on the conference). She had breakfast with the refuseniks in Moscow."

Regarding the Gulf War, Peres doesn't believe that the American flagging of tankers will lead to Iranian-U.S. clashes. "Both sides will act cautiously." But he doesn't believe that the Iranians and Iraqis will prove able to separate between the land and naval wars, a distinction the UN is trying to introduce by calling for a naval ceasefire.

Tehiya Committee Votes Against Dissolving Knesset

TA192007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] This evening the Tehiya Central Committee by a large majority adopted the recommendation of the movement's Secretariat not to work for the dissolution of the Knesset. This has been reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Claims 'Massive' Likud Pledges

TA200514 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Tehiya Party backed down last night from its threat to support early elections after Tehiya leaders secured pledges from the Likud for a substantial expansion in West Bank settlements.

The Tehiya decision dashes Labour Party hopes for garnering a Knesset majority in support of early elections this week. The Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and MAPAM announced last night that they are withdrawing their plans to submit draft proposals for early elections.

Labour Party Secretary-General 'Uzi Bar'am told CRM leaders that there was still a chance that Agudat Yisra'el would support early elections and asked them to delay a final decision about the submission of their bill. If the Aguda does join Labour, a bill for early elections might enjoy the support of 61 MKs [Knesset Member], including Meir Kahane and the Progressive List for Peace, whose stand is uncertain. Tehiya Chairman Yuval Ne'eman told his party's Central Committee, which convened in Jerusalem last night, that Prime Minister Shamir had promised that "thousands" of new housing starts would be carried out in the West Bank in the next 18 months. Ne'eman said that he understood Shamir's commitment as promising 3,000 new housing starts in 1987 and a further 3,000 in 1988. He termed the Likud's pledges as "massive."

The Likud also accepted a plan formulated jointly by Tehiya and the Council of Settlements of Judaea and Samaria for construction of new roads on the West Bank, Ne'eman said. The Likud undertook to speed up the construction of Avne Hefez and Hadar Betar, two of the six settlements whose establishment is provided for in the government's guidelines.

Ne'eman said that the pledges meant that 100,000 Jewish inhabitants would be living in the West Bank by the time elections came around in November next year.

Qiryat Arba' attorney Eliaqim Haetzni said that he had received assurances from Ne'eman that Shamir had promised that if Labour attempts to undermine the West Bank plan "there will be no more government."

Tehiya leaders met for two hours with Finance Minister Moshe Nisim yesterday. Sources close to Shamir said that the total government outlay as a result of promises made to Tehiya would be NIS [new Israeli shekels] 30 million.

Sources in the Knesset Finance Committee and the Housing Ministry appeared perplexed by Ne'eman's assertions last night. They said that 4,000 housing starts are already "in the works" for the West Bank and that four years usually elapse before a commitment for housing materializes.

The sources said that the pledges to Tehiya "might not amount to much." The cost of a new apartment in the West Bank town of Ari'el is $40,000, the sources said, which, when taken as an average, brings the total cost of the pledges to Tehiya — if they do not include already-planned projects — to $240 million.

By a vote of 11-2 the Tehiya Secretariat, which met before the committee convened, decided to recommend that the party should not support early elections at present. The party will keep track of the implementation of the Likud pledges and would re-evaluate its position when the Knesset summer recess ends.

Tehiya Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen, who has opposed early elections all along, said privately yesterday that her party's zig-zag course had caused it electoral damage. She expressed satisfaction with the party decision and said that "the battle will now be over settlements rather than the international conference."

Ne'eman said that the plan for the West Bank was an "effective measure" which would end Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres's promotion of an international conference.

Many speakers at yesterday's Tehiya committee meeting said that the Likud had made "empty promises" and that Tehiya should support early elections in any case. But the majority warned against early elections, which might enable Labour to form a "leftist" government that would try to give back the West Bank to Jordan. The final vote in favour of the Secretariat's decision was 29-9.

Alignment 'To Foil' Plans

TA171505 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The Alignment ministers intend to foil any plan to alter the settlement map of Judaea and Samaria. Reacting to today's proposals by the prime minister in his meeting with members of the Tehiya faction, Alignment ministers told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that any intention to establish new settlements in Judaea and Samaria will be brought to the Inner Cabinet on their initiative and torpedoed there. The ministers added that according to the coalition agreement, even the reinforcement of existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria requires the agreement of all components of the government, and the Alignment ministers intend to foil any such move.

NRP Bureau Opposes Elections, Narrow Government

TA171040 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
17 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] The National Religious Party [NRP] sees an urgent need for the continuation of the national unity government and urges that every effort be made to preserve the coalition partnership. It will not join a narrow-based government or conduct negotiations toward the formation of such a government. These sentiments were expressed yesterday at a party Bureau meeting in Tel Aviv which discussed, among other issues, future political developments now that several Knesset factions intend to submit a bill on the dissolution of the Knesset.

In fact, the Bureau adopted no new resolutions but merely again endorsed an earlier resolution, made several months ago, which expresses opposition to the disbandment of the unity government and the possibility of early elections.

At the same time, the spokesmen pointed out several flaws in the unity government's functioning and expressed their dismay over the paralysis and lack of initiative the government has been showing both in terms of settlement and with respect to the ongoing erosion in the education system. [passage omitted]

Yesterday the Bureau also endorsed a document detailing principles and operational guidance for the fight against Arab terrorism.

The document, which was edited by Hanan Porat, has been debated by the Bureau and the faction in the Knesset a number of times. However, its final text has only been formulated now after changes and amendments reflecting the members' views were introduced into it. [passage omitted]

Peres, Goulding Discuss UNIFIL, South Lebanon

TA191728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding met with Foreign Minister Peres this afternoon in Jerusalem. They discussed the situation of UNIFIL forces in south Lebanon and the renewal of its mandate, which is due to be considered before the Security Council at the end of this month. Our reporter Shlomo Burger says there was no progress at the meeting toward narrowing the differences between Israel and the United Nations on south Lebanon. Goulding repeated the UNIFIL position, that Israel should withdraw from all, or at least most of south Lebanon.

EEC Protests West Bank Export Restrictions

TA171325 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The EEC has protested to Israel over Israel's refusal to permit direct exports of agricultural produce from the territories to Western Europe, and over restrictions it is imposing on European aid to the inhabitants of the territories. The problems were discussed at a meeting between the Danish charge d'affaires in Israel and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Danish representative is the incumbent chairman of EEC institutions. In the past, Israel has demanded that all agricultural produce from the territories be exported through Israeli marketing authorities.

Approves West Bank Aid

TA171327 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The EEC has approved further aid to development programs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The EEC Commission in Brussels announced that it has approved grants totaling some $3.5 million for 1987 and about the same amount for next year. The funds are mainly intended to aid small businessmen, professional training, and health programs. An announcement from Brussels also reports that total EEC aid to the West Bank and Gaza in 1987 has been appraised at $21 million. A further $28 million was transferred directly to the territories from European countries. The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that Israel will only cooperate with the European plans if they are coordinated with Israel.

Sharon, Rabin at Odds Over Work at Settlement Site

TA191829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today ordered the Border Police to remove a bulldozer from the site of a new settlement. Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon had ordered the bulldozer in to

speed up development work at the industrial zone of the as yet unbuilt settlement of Avne Hefez. Defense Ministry sources told the Voice of Israel reporter Shmu'el Tal the settlement authorities have not yet provided the Civil Administration with all the documentation relating to ownership of the land at the site of the proposed settlement. The Defense Ministry says the Trade Ministry is not defined as a settlement authority.

And Minister of Trade and Industry Ari'el Sharon has charged that Defense Minister Rabin's halting of bulldozer work at the new settlement of Avne Hefez marks a new low in the loss of what he termed central government authority in Israel. Sharon said he began pressing for work to commence at the site weeks ago but that the matter only came to the fore when the Tehiya party began pressure on behalf of the settlement's construction last week.

Building To Begin 'This Week'

TA200430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Housing Minister David Levi says building in the new Samarian settlement of Avne Hefez will begin this week. Levi told the Voice of Israel that he met yesterday with Defense Minister Rabin and is coordinating with him all the necessary preparations for establishing the settlement. Yesterday, Rabin ordered Border Police to remove a bulldozer from the site of the settlement.

Tourists Allowed to Enter India After Delay

TA180439 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Indian authorities have allowed 14 Israeli tourists to enter the country after detaining them for 12 hours at Delhi Airport. But Israeli journalists covering next week's Davis Cup tennis tournament against India have still not been granted entry visas. The Israeli team left for India yesterday amid reports from Delhi that strict security precautions would be taken for the matches. Recently PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called on India to refuse to admit the Israeli players and officials.

Al-Masri: French Break With Iran 'Courageous'

JN171725 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] In Amman, Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said France's decision to break off diplomatic relations with Iran was a courageous decision. In a statement to AFP, the Jordanian minister said France was compelled to make such a decision in view of repeated Iranian attacks and provocations, particularly Iranian threats to French citizens and interests inside France.

Bulgarian Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN181851 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev arrived in Amman this evening on an official visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of senior officials. In a press statement on arrival, Ganev hailed the strong relations between Jordan and Bulgaria. He said: My visit to Jordan is to discuss ways to bolster and promote these relations. He pointed out there has been cooperation between both countries in the economic, trade, cultural, and political fields. Concerning political relations, Ganev said the Jordanian and Bulgarian stands are identical on most world issues. He said his country supports convening an international peace conference to solve the Middle East issue. Such a conference would be attended by all parties to the conflict, along with the five permanent UN Security Council member states.

Ganev said his country works through its UN Security Council membership to convene an international conference because it constitutes an important opportunity to solve the Middle East problem. He lauded the important role Jordan is playing under His Majesty King Husayn in supporting efforts to bring about peace in the region. He said Bulgaria follows with great interest and appreciation the intensive Jordanian efforts to convene an international conference and achieve a just, lasting peace in the Middle East.

Receiving Ganev at the airport were Nabih al-Nimr, Foreign Ministry secretary general; senior ministry officials; the Bulgarian ambassador in Amman; and Bulgarian Embassy staff.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN191224 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri received Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev in his office this morning. Also, the Jordanian side, led by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih al-Nimr, and the Bulgarian side, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev, held a round of talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The talks dealt with relations between the two countries and international issues of mutual interest, particularly the Middle East situation. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the level of relations between the two countries in various economic and cultural fields, particularly in trade exchange, which had increased steadily in recent years so that the trade balance between the two countries was moving toward equilibrium. The two sides affirmed that several positive opportunities exist to promote and consolidate bilateral relations. They agreed to consider ways to increase trade exchange between the two countries, set up joint projects, and promote economic and cultural cooperation.

The Bulgarian deputy foreign minister asserted that the Jordanian and Bulgarian viewpoints are identical on most international topics and issues of mutual interest. He reaffirmed his country's support for Arab issues, particularly the Middle East issue. He also reiterated support for the efforts to convene an international peace conference aimed at bringing about a just, comprehensive settlement of the region's problems, in which all parties to the conflict along with the five permanent UN Security Council member states will take part.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were the director of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department and the head of the Political Department's European section, and on the Bulgarian side the Bulgarian ambassador in Amman and the delegation accompanying Ganev.

News Conference Held

JN200915 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
20 Jul 87 pp 1, 3

[By Nirmeen Murad]

[Text] Amman — A high ranking Bulgarian official Sunday expressed his country's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East to bring about a durable and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Speaking at a press conference held at the Bulgarian Embassy on Sunday, Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev told journalists that a peaceful state of affairs in the Middle East could only be reached on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the Palestinian people are given the right to self-determination. The Palestinian people, Mr. Ganev said, should be represented at the proposed peace conference by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

"We call for the establishment of a preparatory committee composed of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the problem with the concerned countries and then prepare a working list of suggestions for the conference," Mr. Ganev said.

Mr. Ganev said the question of whether a separate Palestinian state or a confederation with Jordan is to be established "is a decision that should be taken by the Palestinians themselves and other Arab countries." But he said the conference should not be "an umbrella covering separate or bilateral talks since these talks would not reach a durable and conclusive peace accepted by all parties concerned."

Mr. Ganev denied reports of direct contacts between Bulgaria and Israel despite the absence of diplomatic links, and said that any talks which could have taken place between the two countries would have been "humanitarian or technical in nature, regarding

Russian churches in Israel and the situation of Bulgarian Jews living in Israel." "We cut our relations with Israel for the Arabs and we will only renew relations only for the Arabs," he said. Bulgaria severed diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

On Bulgaria's position towards the Iran-Iraq conflict, Mr. Ganev said that the Gulf war was an "irrational war" since it serves only those parties interested in continuing it for their own purposes. Mr. Ganev cited Israel as the main benefactor of the Gulf war since the war "delays Arab unity and consequently delays Arab efforts towards solving the Middle East problem."

Mr. Ganev said that the Gulf war would also serve those powers interested in strengthening their military power in the area. Mr. Ganev reiterated his country's support for measures and resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) towards stopping the Iran-Iraq war.

"We support the (Soviet) proposals for the removal of all military ships from the Arab Gulf, since we feel that the Iran-Iraq conflict should not directly affect navigation in the area," Mr. Ganev said. Bulgaria is against "military ships escorting tankers in the Gulf," he said. "It is very dangerous."

In reply to a question on relations between Turkey and Bulgaria, Mr. Ganev said that "for some time now, the relationship between Bulgaria and Turkey had been frozen." He said Bulgaria would work towards establishing better relations with Turkey but only on the basis of "mutual respect, and non-interference in internal issues of each country," he said.

On contentions that Bulgaria's alleged ill-treatment of Muslims has a direct bearing on Sofia's "frozen relations" with Ankara, Mr. Ganev said: "Although Bulgaria is not a Muslim country it does give equal religious rights to all religions." According to Mr. Ganev, there is no truth to allegations that Turkish-Bulgarian differences stemmed from religion. He charged that Turkey was using this concept as a "curtain to hide its real intentions which are a continuation of the Ottoman empire's intentions."

Mr. Ganev arrived here on Saturday on an official visit. He held talks on Sunday with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat on the situation of Muslims in Bulgaria and confirmed that they were not being ill-treated and that the Bulgarian Government does not interfere with their Islamic practices, the *Jordan News Agency*, PETRA, said.

At his press conference, Mr. Ganev said Jordan's trade exchange with Bulgaria had reached $20 million and it was expected to reach $40 million by the end of this year. Jordan exported goods worth $11.5 million and imported from Bulgaria goods worth $8.5 million in the first half of 1987, he said.

Mr. Ganev also met on Sunday with Mr. Nabih al-Nimr, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry. PETRA said they agreed to explore possibilities for further promoting Jordanian-Bulgarian cooperation in economic and cultural fields and prospects for increasing the volume of bilateral trade.

Departs Amman 20 Jul

JN201147 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Ivan Ganev, Bulgarian deputy foreign minister, left Amman this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with a number of high-ranking officials. His talks dealt with regional developments, the proposed international Mideast peace conference, and ways to foster bilateral ties.

Sudanese Minister Arrives in Amman 18 Jul

JN190714 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Amman — Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, Sudanese minister of state for defense, arrived in Amman yesterday evening on an official visit of several days during which he will convey a message from His Excellency Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on fraternal bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab and Islamic arenas. Fadlallah Burmah Nasir will also meet with a number of officials within the framework of efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The Sudanese minister is accompanied by 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Sudanese Constituent Assembly. Fadlallah was received upon arrival by Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani, a number of senior officers, the Sudanese ambassador in Amman, and embassy staff.

Meets Crown Prince Hasan

JN191438 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, Sudanese minister of state for defense, and 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the Sudanese Constituent Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, who conveyed a message to his highness from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. During the meeting they discussed the current Arab situation and Arab security in general, as well as ways to unify Arab ranks. Emphasis was laid on enhancing relations between Jordan and fraternal Sudan. Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff; and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

The chief of staff received at the General Command this morning the Sudanese minister of state for defense and chairman of the Sudanese Constituent Assembly Foreign Relations Committee. During the meeting they discussed issues of interest to both Armed Forces and ways to bolster bilateral cooperation.

No New Information on Fate of French Hostages

NC180721 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] There has been no new information about the fate of French hostages Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine. The Islamic Jihad Organization had threatened to execute them yesterday in retaliation for France's decision to sever its relations with Tehran.

French Response to Situation in West Beirut

Teachers Evacuated

NC190527 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] AFP has reported that all French teachers have been evacuated from West Beirut. In another development, the agency quoted an informed source as saying that French diplomats have decided to restrict their movements to a minimum.

'Maximum Alert' Declared

NC201407 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] French Ambassador in Lebanon Paul Blanc has declared a state of maximum alert for all French nationals currently in Lebanon and has suspended his own visits to West Beirut. In a statement to the press, Blanc said: My visits with my aides to the Islamic areas of West Beirut to underline a French presence everywhere in Lebanon have been suspended until further notice. He also stated that all French teachers have left West Beirut and that guards at the embassy building in the Clemenceau area [of West Beirut] have been ordered to remain inside.

We remind listeners that these measures have been taken following threats by Hizballah and the Islamic Jihad to attack French interests.

UNIFIL Officer Denies French Contingent on Alert

NC181319 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] A UN officer has denied media reports that the French UNIFIL contingent has been placed on maximum alert. The officer affirmed that the French contingent is continuing to perform its mission in a normal manner and is carrying out its tasks under the UN flag. The officer said that the French contingent takes no orders except from the UNIFIL command in Al-Naqurah.

Regime, Forces Struggle for 5th Brigade Control

NC181154 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 18 Jul 87

(Text] A plan prepared by the Lebanese Forces to control the Defense Ministry and the Presidential Palace in B'abda has been brought to light in the wake of the struggle between the regime and the Lebanese Forces to control the Army's 5th Brigade. This struggle compelled the Army Command to dismiss 5th Brigade Commander Paul Faris and to appoint Akram Karam in his place.

Sources in the eastern area have stated that the purpose of the plan is to declare the government of independence called for by Samir Ja'Ja'. However, the Army Command unexpectedly learned of the plan and, consequently, intensively deployed its 8th Brigade and Paul Faris and his supporters. The 8th Brigade took control of the areas of Al-Matn, B'abda, and the Defense Ministry, and supervised Amin al-Jumayyil's transfer to Bikfayya.

The sources disclosed that the operation was carried out without any fighting or propaganda. However, they cautioned that anything can happen. Despite the failure of their plan, the Lebanese Forces have tightened their control over part of the Al-Yarzi [Defense Ministry] Army.

Paper Reports Coup Attempt

NC191111 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Political sources have noted that it is necessary to watch for possible deve'opments in the political and military struggle in the eastern area in light of a report published by the *Al-Safir* newspaper. According to this report, the Lebanese Forces wanted to carry out a coup in an attempt to assume control of the Presidential Palace in B'abda and the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi. There have been no reports to either confirm or deny this attempt.

Antoine Lahd Reportdly Admitted to Hospital

JN191600 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic
18 Jul 87 p 1

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] Beirut — Responsible sources have told *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* that South Lebanese Army Commander Antoine Lahd was taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa early yesterday morning following the deterioration of his health. He was admitted to the intensive care unit. Lahd was taken to Rambam Hospital by an Israeli Air force helicopter. Lahd's wife contacted the northern region command yesterday morning and asked General Yosi Peled, commander of the northern region, to save her husband. The Rambam Hospital administration refused to disclose how serious his illness was, but said his condition was stable.

Junblatt-Palestinian Contacts Reportedly Ongoing

NC172050 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Citing knowledgeable sources in West Beirut, the Central News Agency reports that contacts between PSP leader Walid Junblatt and the PLO leadership have not ceased, despite the fact

that those who sympathize with the Palestinians have been banished from the party. These political sources add that Junblatt recently met secretly with an 'Arafat envoy, who holds a leading position in the Fatah Movement in southern Lebanon, but they did not name him.

The sources said that the talks dealt with reviving a previously agreed plan by 'Arafat and Junblatt to establish a factory in the mountain area to produce B-7 rockets. The Palestinians maintained similar plants in the Sabra Camp before the Israeli invasion of 1982. They add that Junblatt asked 'Arafat's envoy to finance the project, estimated at $300,000-400,000, and promised to consider establishing the plant in view of his embarrassing situation vis-a-vis Syria. The sources noted that 'Arafat has decided to wait, however, and is concentrating on helping deported Palestinians until developments bear out Junblatt's good intentions and firmness.

In the meantime, the sources note that substantial numbers of 'Arafat's followers have returned to southern Lebanon, particularly to Sidon, where they are backed by certain local leaders.

Palestinians, Syrians Clash in Burj al-Barajinah

NC171959 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Extreme tension prevails in Burj al-Barajinah camp [in Beirut's southern suburbs] following clashes between Palestinians and Syrian forces stationed on the Al-'Amiliyah line from 2015 to 2030 today. The clashes, in which RPG's and machineguns were used, also spread to the Al-Mashnuq line, where the Amal Movement maintains positions. Sniper fire reached the airport road, wounding three persons.

Southern Suburb Comes Under Mortar Attack

NC181211 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1143 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] We have just received the following report from the editorial office:

The Al-Shiyah area in Beirut's southern suburb came under mortar attack a short while ago. The attack originated from Kafr Shima and Hayy al-Amirikan [in East Beirut]. Meanwhile, the areas of Al-Laylakah, Sfayr, and Al-Kafa'at are being subjected to heavy-caliber machinegun fire.

Amal, Palestinians Renew Fighting in East Sidon

NC191622 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpt] According to a security report received a short while ago, fighting between Palestinians and the Amal Movement again flared up on the east Sidon combat lines at 1745 today. Clashes involving the use of automatic weapons, rockets, and artillery are now taking place on the combat lines of Maghdushah, Al-Ghaziyah, and Al-Shawakir. Intensive sniper fire from medium-caliber weapons is being directed at the coastal road between the Al-Ra'i Hospital and the Al-Safa' checkpoint in the Sidon area. [passage omitted]

Meeting Held Near Tyre

NC201300 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] An expanded meeting attended by the leaders of the Amal Movement in the south and members of the Palestinian popular committees in the Tyre camps was held at the UNRWA headquarters in Burj al-Shamali at noon today. Dawud Dawud, 'Ali Khurays, and Muhammad Harqus on behalf of Amal, all members of the Palestinian committees, and UNRWA representatives in Tyre were present at the meeting.

At the end of the 2-hour session, Dawud Dawud said that the purpose of the Amal-Palestinian meeting was to refute the lies being fabricated abroad. These lies, Dawud added, claim that there is a Palestinian exodus. He urged Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic; Dr Salim al-Huss, the acting prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal al-Din, the mufti of the south; and the Syrian observers in Tyre to send envoys to acquaint themselves with the true situation in the south.

In another development, the Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau dismissed a media report that a meeting had taken place between an Amal Movement official in the south and an Israeli intelligence officer. The bureau said that this report is completely baseless and is part of a campaign being launched by pro-Zionist forces and Palestinian deviationists to justify schemes aimed at harming the Amal Movement in general and the south in particular.

Al-Huss Returns From Visit to Kuwait 19 Jul

NC191355 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut today following a 48-hour visit to Kuwait, during which he chaired the Arab League's Economic Council meetings. The meetings revolved around the various Arab organizations' economic plans and structures. During his visit, Dr Salim al-Huss also met with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah to discuss the situation in Lebanon and the Arab region as a whole.

Turkish Prime Minister Ozal Concludes Visit

News Conference Held

JN171932 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal held a news conference today. The news conference was attended by members of the Syrian and Turkish delegations and correspondents of the Syrian and Turkish press and Syrian, Turkish, and foreign news agencies. Ozal made a statement to the press in which he addressed topics dealt with during the talks. He emphasized that friendship was a major factor in the talks held on the prime ministerial level. He said his impression when received by President Hafiz al-Asad during a lengthy and very friendly meeting confirms that relations between Syria and Turkey have taken a new and serious turn and that the steps made effectively contribute toward developing relations in all fields.

Ozal spoke about what was achieved in the economic field during the visit. He said Turkey is building the Ataturk Dam and that beginning in 1988 water will be stored in the dam. He said until the storage of water in the Ataturk Dam begins, Turkey has pledged to supply Syria with water in quantities not less than 500 cubic meters per second, until such a time when the water is distributed among the three Euphrates countries.

Ozal said as a result of these talks Syria will provide technical assistance for studying the economic feasability of the Peace Water Project which Turkey proposed. He said Syria has expressed readiness to study the export of natural gas to Turkey after its production begins. He said the two countries agreed to arrange for a meeting when necessary to ratify the agreement on the exchange of electric power between Nusaybin and Al-Qamishli and that a line connecting the two has already been installed. The agreement will be in force when it is signed, he added. Ozal said the two sides reached a four-point agreement on expediting and completing work to connect the electricity network between Syria and Turkey. He said it was decided to study the high tension current between Gaziantep and Aleppo so there will be a large-scale exchange of electric power between Syria and Turkey.

Regarding political issues Ozal said: Both sides discussed external political issues and reached an understanding on many of the international topics discussed when I was honored to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. In conclusion Ozal said: I would like to emphasize that the great rapprochement which we accomplished through the visits will greatly benefit both countries and peoples and serve their interests.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm also spoke and said: Mr Ozal did not leave me anything to talk about regarding what our positive talks have achieved. He has talked about the matters on which we agreed. The only thing I could add is that we feel we are working in the interest of our two peoples and countries with confidence and goodwill. Confidence and goodwill are more important than agreements and protocols, and we have succeeded in achieving both together. We congratulate each other on what we have achieved — an achievement having consequences for our two countries and peoples and for Arab and Muslim countries.

Journalists and correspondents of Syria, Turkey, and foreign news agencies posed various questions to Al-Kasm and Ozal, who answered them and stressed the positive steps made during the talks and the good results which will be beneficial to both countries and peoples.

At 1730 today Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left Damascus for Ankara at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm. He was also seen off at the plane's ramp by Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs 'Isam al-Na'ib, the Syrian ambassador in Ankara, and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus.

When he arrived at the airport, Ozal shook hands with the deputy prime minister for services affairs, the ministers, the governor of Damascus, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly and the Turkish Embassy staff. The Turkish and Syrian national anthems were then played. Ozal and Al-Kasm inspected the guard of honor. Before boarding the plane, Ozal embraced Al-Kasm. Members of the delegation accompanying Ozal left with him.

Further on News Conference

TA171129 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Turkey and Syria have decided to sign a cooperation protocol in the fields of security and economy. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, currently on an official visit to Syria, met with Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm again this morning. In a joint news conference after the meeting, the two prime ministers announced the decisions adopted during the official talks.

Ozal declared that new and serious relations have been launched between Turkey and Syria, adding that these relations must be developed to benefit the countries in the region as well. Ozal stressed that the development of bilateral relations will contribute to Turkey's relations with all Arab countries. He noted that during the official talks, the Turkish side asked that more effective security measures be adopted in a bid to achieve an atmosphere of trust between the two countries. Pointing out that Turkey is ready to cooperate on this matter and on every necessary measure, the prime minister emphasized the need for closer cooperation on security matters in order to transform the border between Turkey and Syria into a border of peace and stability.

Ozal explained that Turkey has agreed to yield water from the Euphrates River at an average annual rate of not less than 500 cubic meters per second, once the Ataturk Dam begins to store water, and that this will be valid until an agreement is reached on the subject between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. Noting that Turkey will also extend the necessary assistance to Syria for the preparation of the feasibility reports concerning the peace water project, Ozal said that if the reports are positive, Turkey will continue its assistance to Syria during the realization of the

project as well. The prime minister noted that Turkey and Syria will also exchange information on gas and oil exploration, and the relevant organizations of the two countries will cooperate on this issue.

Ozal stated that the agreement on the supply of Turkish electricity to Syria is in its final stages, adding that later the Nusaybin-Kamis field will be used for the transfer of power. He declared that the establishment of an electricity line between Gaziantep and Aleppo will also be studied. The prime minister said that the two sides agreed to develop cultural relations, and cultural centers will be established in Damascus and Ankara. Both sides are in favor of continuing these well-intentioned moves, Ozal said, adding that there is no doubt that the people of Turkey and Syria share the same wishes.

In his turn, Al-Kasm stressed that Syria always attaches importance to mutual goodwill and trust, and noted that the results of the official talks will influence the region and the other Arab countries as well.

The cooperation protocol on security and economic matters will be initialed by Turkey and Syria this afternoon. Prime Minister Ozal will then leave for Ankara.

Protocols Signed

JN180541 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Damascus — At 1730 today Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal left Damascus for Ankara at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Two cooperation protocols were signed between Syria and Turkey at 1630 today. The first deals with security affairs and the second with economic cooperation issues. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm signed the protocols for Syria and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal signed them for Turkey. Dr al-Kasm and Ozal then exchanged speeches of congratulations, and Turgut Ozal invited Dr al-Kasm to visit Turkey. He promised to respond to this invitation at a later date.

Turgut Ozal sent a cable from his plane to Dr al-Kasm, thanking him for the warm welcome and hospitality he and his delegation were accorded during the visit. He said: I was very satisfied with the frank atmosphere that prevailed in our talks on bilateral relations, and I was very happy with the dialogue I held with you during my visit. He added: We will do our best to promote relations between our two countries. Turgut Ozal also expressed admiration for the achievements and progress he had witnessed in Syria, particularly in the humanitarian and technical fields, under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Gulf Paper Cited on Iranian Response to Al-Asad

JN180754 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jul (WAM) — The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* stated today that the response Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received from Iranian President 'Ali Khamane'i in reply to a message Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had earlier conveyed to him was "important" and dealt with the recent regional developments and other issues of common interest.

The newspaper has learned that the Iranian response consisted of three major points. These are the rejection of any military role by the two superpowers in the Strait of Hormuz; the rejection of any solution to the issue of the foreign hostages in Lebanon that excludes Tehran; and rejection of the liquidation of the Islamic and fundamentalist movements in Lebanon, since they constitute an Iranian line that must not be crossed.

Najibullah Begins 'Short Visit' to Soviet Union

LD191549 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, left today for a short visit to the Soviet Union.

Members and candidate members of the Politburo, secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee, and Comrades Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Nur Ahmad Nur, Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Sulayman La'eq, Muhammad Rafi', Abdul Wakil, Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Ghulam Faruq Yaqubi, Zahur Razemjo, Mahmud Barialay, Mir Sahib Karwal, Najmuddin Kawiani, Niaz Muhammad, and Farid Ahmad Mazdak saw Comrade Najibullah off at Kabul International Airport.

Comrade Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the USSR to the DRA, also left with Comrade Najibullah. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Ziaul Haq's Remarks

LD190654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0521 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 18, *Bakhtar* — A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA strongly refuted the slanderous allegations made by General Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan, associating the Government of Afghanistan to the recent explosions that took place in Karachi city. Such allegations, he added, are new attempts on the part of Pakistani authorities to undermine the atmosphere of talks for the political solution of the situation around the DRA and the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the region. The consequences of such futile attempts undoubtedly rest with the Pakistani side.

It is clear to everybody that the suppressive, discriminative and divisionist polices of the ruling regime of Pakistan are responsible for the escalation of crises in Pakistan. The roots of such dangerous situation lies in the acute contradictions existing in the Pakistan society, which are manifested in the extensive and wide spread demonstrations of the people of Pakistan.

The spokesman of the ministry stated neither explosions and terrorism nor the baseless accusations of Pakistan against Afghanistan are new phenomena. But what is more deplorable is the fact that this time the president of Pakistan has taken the charge of making allegation against Afghanistan.

However, General Ziaul Haq cannot cover the fact that the policy of the DRA is based on peace, detente, non-intervention into the internal affairs of other countries, good neighbourliness and the solution of issues through peaceful means.

The process of national reconciliation has entered into a new phase on these days aiming at enhancing peace in Afghanistan and the region as a whole. General Ziaul Haq intends to overshadow the new successes which are ahead under the policy of national reconciliation by linking the explosions of Karachi city to Afghanistan, where as these explosions are the natural product of social contradictions and the suppressive and cruel acts of the regime itself.

President of Pakistan is trying to pretend that he pays the price of protecting the Afghan refugees in the territory of Pakistan or as if Pakistani have become the victim of the Afghan refugees.

The reality is that this is the Pakistani regime who is keeping refugees in camps as prisoners so as to get many under the pretext of their presence there and to use them for the implementation of its aggressive policies. If the Pakistani regime let the refugees back home there will be no need to him to pay the price of protecting the Afghan refugees there.

3 Killed, 10 Wounded in Explosion in Kabul

LD181658 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1600 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Extremist opposition elements have again displayed hostility to our toiling Muslim people, who want peace and security throughout the country. They have shown their true selves by perpetrating another crime. By planting [words indistinct] they have increased the number of their inhuman crimes.

According to a BIA report, an explosion took place this afternoon in the (?vicinity) of First Mikrorayon in Kabul at approximately 1730. Planted by the treacherous and criminal extremists and enemies of tranquillity and peace, the blast martyred 3 of our compatriots and injured 10 others, including 2 children. A number of our compatriots' families must now mourn the loss of their loved ones.

The report notes that the explosives were cleverly hidden on a motorcycle. Two vehicles were seriously damaged by the blast. The injured were immediately taken to the hospital and are said to be improving.

This crime comes at a time when the policy of national reconciliation is being successfully implemented throughout the country; a time when thousands of our compatriots who want peace and life are joining the national reconciliation process proclaimed by the party and the revolutionary country.

Hundreds of our compatriots who witnessed this unforgivable crime by the extremists have expressed their repulsion and hatred of these criminal extremist elements and their imperialist supporters. Our compatriots have urged the responsible authorities to find the perpetrators of this barbaric act and to punish them for their criminal deeds. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Attack Leaders' Meeting; 6 Killed

LD191638 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Extremist elements, the enemies of peace and prosperity for our compatriots, resorted to an inhuman crime and drowned in soil and blood a number of inhabitants in Bamian Province yesterday, leaving our peace-loving compatriots bereaved.

According to a report from a BIA correspondent, the criminal extremist elements fired surface-to-surface rockets at the Bamian cinema where ulema, theologians, elders, workers, state employees, students, and a number of toilers had gathered to discuss the draft of the DRA Constitution. They were talking about this important national document when the attack came. They martyred six of our peace-loving compatriots, including two women and four men, who were participating in the discussion to implement the national reconciliation policy in hope of a better future. They injured 20 others, including women, children, and elders. The wounded in this sad incident were transferred to Bamian hospital. Six of them were kept in the hospital, while the rest were sent home after treatment. [passage omitted]

Karachi Says Over 1,000 Soviet-Kabul Troops Killed

BK190812 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have killed more than 1,000 Soviet-Kabul troops in 3 days of major offensive last week against Soviet-Kabul bases on the 40-mile long highway between Kabul and Jalalabad. This was one of the major offensives carried out by mujahidin since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Reports say 2 Soviet military camps and 20 military bases, besides the road, were wiped out and a large number of armored vehicles and ammunition destroyed.

Tehran Details Operations

NC200600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad; date not given]

[Text] During operations which were initiated 3 days ago, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries destroyed all posts and positions of the joint forces of the Kabul regime on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. In these massive and well-coordinated operations, the Muslim revolutionaries used light and heavy weapons and rockets, destroying the posts and installations of the joint forces and killing or wounding hundreds of enemy forces.

According to reports, at least 20 posts of the joint forces were destroyed and scores of tanks, APCs, and military vehicles were set ablaze by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. This is being termed one of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries' biggest attacks.

According to another report, Afghan revolutionaries attacked a joint forces' military base in the Kalakan District of Takhar Province and occupied it.

A spokesman for the Hezb-e Jamiyat-e Eslami, reporting on the attack, said: In these operations, which were carried out 12 days ago, 30 soldiers stationed at the base were killed and 110 captured by Afghan revolutionaries. A considerable quantity of military equipment and ammunition was seized by the revolutionaries.

The spokesman added: This is the third time that the Kalakan military base has fallen to the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

Mujahidin Reportedly Shoot Down 2 Planes

BK200810 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin recently shot down a Soviet plane near Jalalabad, killing its pilot. They also reportedly shot down a plane of the Kabul regime which was bombing their positions on the outskirts of Paktia Province.

Another report says after fierce clashes in southern and northern areas of Qandahar on Thursday last [16 July], the Soviet-Kabul troops were forced to retreat from these areas.

Opposition Demand for Midterm Election Ruled Out

BK181555 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out the possibility of any midterm election in the country. Talking to newsmen in the capital today, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury made a fervent appeal to democratic forces to work unitedly for the promotion of democratic values and institutions.

Referring to the various demands of the opposition political parties, he said almost all the demands are ultra vires of the Constitution. The government has tried its utmost to accommodate the demands of the opposition in Parliament.

Defending the zila parishad [district council] bill, the prime minister said it is an autonomous body wrested with development programs only. He said if people from other professions can sit there, what is the harm to include a representative from the Armed Forces.

Prime Minister Rejects Call For Resignation

BK191600 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has asked the people to resist the proposed continuous hartal [strike] by the opposition parties through democratic means. Addressing a big public meeting in the capital this afternoon, he called upon the people of all walks of life to carry on their normal business and daily activities as usual. The prime minister instructed his party members and leaders to mobilize people from the city to village to forge a greater national resistance against the hartal. Describing such hartals as the cause of untold sufferings to the low-income group, he called upon the opposition parties to give a second thought (?to) their disruptive political approach.

Referring to the opposition demand for the resignation of the government, the prime minister categorically said the present government under President Ershad will not resign. He termed the opposition demand as childish and argued that the government cannot resign as it is duly elected by the people. In this context, he pointed out that his government is a constitutional one and will govern the country till the end of its term as it was given mandate by the people to run the administration for the next 5 years. Mr Chowdhury also said President Ershad has received people's mandate twice and he has the total support of 212 members of parliament which has empowered him to run the administration.

The prime minister also criticized the opposition for disregarding the Constitution by creating a law and order situation to replace a democratically elected government. [passage omitted]

Opposition Organizes Strike

BK191606 Hong Kong AFP in English
1601 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Dhaka, July 19 (AFP) — Bangladesh's major opposition political groups have buried their differences and come out with a joint call for a 54-hour general strike aimed at forcing the removal of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The call for the shutdown, to begin at dawn Wednesday, came after marathon talks Saturday between representatives of the opposition eight-party alliance of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the seven-party alliance of Begum Khaleda Zia and the five-party combine of Nirmal Sen. [passage omitted]

Opposition sources said they initially planned to call a 72-hour strike aimed at paralysing the administration and forcing the 58-year-old president, a former general, to step down after five years in power. But after day-long talks, opposition representatives set the strike from dawn Wednesday to weekly Moslem prayers at noon Friday, the sources said. The rightist Jamiat-i Islami and some other smaller opposition parties are expected to announce late Sunday that they plan to join the strike, the sources added.

Meanwhile, a ruling party MP was manhandled Saturday near the government secretariat here by opposition students during a procession at the building, press reports said.

In another incident in a western Pubna District town, a bomb was hurled at a jeep carrying two government MP's going to address an anti-strike rally. The jeep was damaged but the MP's escaped with minor injuries, press reports said. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Deplores Junejo's Remarks on Interference

BK180840 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] India has deplored the Pakistan prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo's, unfounded and baseless allegations about New Delhi's involvement in Pakistan's internal affairs. The official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India has strongly condemned all acts of terrorist violence. The country remains committed to the normalization of relations with Pakistan in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

The Pakistan prime minister, Mr Junejo, in a press conference in Karachi yesterday had alleged that Indian involvement in the recent bomb blasts in Pakistan could not be ruled out.

Premises of Defense Firms' Agents Raided

BK171456 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Income tax authorities have conducted massive raids on the premises of Indian firms and individuals claiming to be agents of foreign companies in defense contracts. According to an official press release in New Delhi this evening, documents and papers seized in the searches reveal clear evidence of supression of income of a very high order. In one case a document carried a directive to the foreign contractor to pay part of the commission in a foreign account. The searches were conducted yesterday and today in 70 premises in Delhi alone. Raids were also carried out at Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Gaziabad, and Faridabad. The operations are not yet over.

The press release also disclosed that cash, jewelry, fixed deposits, silver bars, and diamonds worth 60 lakh rupees were seized in the raids yesterday. Fifty-two bank lockers have also been sealed by the authorities. Revenue intelligence authorities have seized contraband gold biscuits weighing 26 kg worth 72 lakh rupees from the residential premises of a building contractor in a north Delhi area. The gold biscuits, numbering 225, carried foreign markings.

Ex-Minister's Offer To Quit Congress-I Rejected

BK180849 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] has rejected the offer made by the former defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, to resign from the party and the Rajya Sabha.

The party's general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, told newsmen in New Delhi last night that Mr Singh's offer is conditional and, therefore, not amenable to any action.

Mr V.P. Singh, in a letter to the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had said that he was ready to resign from the party and the Rajya Sabha if it helps the party.

Singh Expelled From Congress-I

BK191241 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] The former union minister, Mr V.P. Singh, has been expelled from the Congress-I. Announcing this in New Delhi today, the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, said the action has been taken against Mr Singh for antiparty activities.

Singh Expresses Surprise at Move

BK191609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Speaking to newsmen at his residence, Mr V.P. Singh expressed surprise and sorrow at his expulsion [from Congress-I]. He said so far he has done only one act of writing a letter to the prime minister to take action against Ajitabh Bachchan regarding his property in Switzerland. He maintained that he did not do any antiparty activity. Rather, it is a procountry act. He said he has spent 2 decades in Congress and served it with best of his abilities. Now I feel sad, he said.

Giving his reactions, the communications minister, Mr Arjun Singh, supported the prompt action taken by the party chief. He said the congressmen will always stand by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, unitedly to meet the challenges facing the nation. He said baseless and malicious charges are being leveled against the leader of the party and there is no proof for any allegations. The prime minister has assured the nation that he will take stringent action whenever any reasonable proof is forwarded to him.

Mr Arjun Singh said the people of India has given a massive mandate in 1984 to our party and Mr Gandhi and we should clearly understand that the policy and programs of the party have the endorsement of the people. A congressman has a decisive role to play, he said.

Minister of State for Defense Arun Singh Resigns

BK181554 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] The minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, has resigned from the Council of Ministers. Details are coming in.

A report just received says that a communique issued from the Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] states that the president has accepted the resignation of Mr Arun Singh from the Council of Ministers on the advice of the prime minister.

Lok Sabha Member Resigns From Parliament

BK171634 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Amitab Bachchan has resigned from the Lok Sabha. Mr Bachchan sent his resignation letter to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, with a request to forward it to the speaker, Mr

Bal Ram Jakhar, for acceptance. The resignation has been forwarded.

In a press statement, Mr Bachchan said he has tendered his resignation in the wake of events in the last few months. He said his role in politics was dedicated to strengthen the hands of the prime minister and he is prepared to make any sacrifice for this.

Mr Bachchan reaffirmed his commitment to the leadership of the prime minister.

1 Killed, 2 Injured in Meerut; 50 Persons Arrested

BK180914 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] In Meerut, one person was killed and two were injured in an exchange of fire between the police and rioters who indulged in arson and violence this morning. Consequently, curfew relaxation in Kotwali, Delhi Gate, Lisarigate, and Brahmapuri police station areas scheduled for this morning has been canceled.

According to police sources, the trouble started when some persons in the (Gudari) Bazaar area insisting on defying curfew restrictions were prevented by the police from doing so.

A crowd, which later gathered there, set ablaze a few shops and fired on the police. The police returned the fire. Fifty persons have so far been arrested. Police patrolling has been intensified in the sensitive areas in the city. The situation in other areas is fully under control.

Curfew 'Relaxed' for 2 Hours

BK200329 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] In Meerut, curfew is being relaxed for 2 hours in rotation today in Delhi Gate, Lisari Gate, and Brahmapuri police station areas. According to police sources in Lucknow, indefinite curfew continues in Kathwali police station area. The situation in Kathwali areas will be reviewed later today. Meanwhile, patrolling by police and security forces continues. Constant vigil is being maintained in the affected areas.

Police Search Golden Temple Area; 35 Arrested

BK180854 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] In Punjab, the police and paramilitary forces today carried out search of some buldings, including inns, next to the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. According to an official spokesman, the search was carried out on definite information that some terrorists were hiding there. He said about 35 suspects have been rounded up during the search. Further details are awaited.

IRGC To Hold 'Martyrdom Maneuvers' in August

LD181854 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 18 Jul 87

["Martyrdom Maneuvers in Regional Waters Slated for August" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — The Joint Staff of the land, air, and naval branches of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a statement here today that the IRGC Marines and its land and air force would perform maneuvers at the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman in August as a warning to the superpowers and to demonstrate their combat power "for crushing the suicidal moves" of the world "blasphemous powers". The maneuvers will be code-named Shahadat (Martyrdom).

In other news Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani an official in charge of the mobilization of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps told reporters in the Caspian city of Sari today that a plan for encountering the U.S. forces at the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman has already been drawn up and that since last March as many as 200 battalions had been dispatched to various parts of the battlefronts as reserve forces which could be deployed by military commanders once the occasion should warrant. He said by next March as many as 1,500 combat battalions named "Marchers to Karbala'" would have been sent to the battlefields.

Rahmani said during June and July as much as 80 million rials worth of people's contributions had been sent to combatants in the battlefronts.

In related news international mediamen and reporters are rushing to the Persian Gulf states and especially the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for covering the latest developments at the Persian Gulf. Many of them have chartered motor boats, launches or helicopters to get as close as they can to Kuwait's *Al-Rakkah* oil tanker which is about 20 miles from the littoral waters of the Gulf of Oman. The U.S. cruiser closest to the Kuwaiti tanker is *Crawler-37*.

The Arabic daily *Al-Ittihad* published in Abu Dhabi says the U.S. Joint Staff Command has ordered its frigates to warn all approaching aircraft to steer clear.

81,000 Basijis To Confront U.S.

LD191044 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., July 19, IRNA — Head of the Basij (volunteer) forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani said that what really has frightened the U.S. and forced it to directly interfere in the Persian Gulf, are not Iran's missiles in the Strait of Hormuz but rather the martyrdom-seeking basijis, over 81,000 of whom are prepared to confront the U.S. in the Persian Gulf waters.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, here to attend a three-day seminar of IRGC commanders in this northern city, said Saturday that the U.S. plot was aimed at diverting the attention of Iranian people and officials from the fronts of the land war to the Persian Gulf waters. But, he stressed, the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and officials of the country soon realised the nature of the new U.S. plot, cautioning that the direct war imposed by Iraq should not be deviated from the battlefields. The three-day seminar started Saturday to study ways for the expansion and strengthening of the 20-million-strong army and also to review latest developments in war fronts.

IRGC Communique on Maneuvers

NC190609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 87

["Text" of communique by the Joint Staff of the three branches of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on scheduled maritime "Martyrdom Maneuvers" during month of Mordad [23 July-22 August] — issued on 18 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In the wake of the able Islamic fighters' consecutive victories and the rising, seething infidel-toppling wave of the Islamic revolution in the world, the world oppression powers, spearheaded by the criminal United States, have accelerated their machinations in the region, particularly in the Persian Gulf.

In view of the decisive and revolutionary stance adopted by the powerful system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they have been gripped with increasing apprehension and perplexity and have resorted to low and degrading tactics. In order to display their strength and capability, stemming from their faith, against possible aggression, the IRGC naval fighters, composed of the Defenders of the Persian Gulf will stage massive maritime martyrdom maneuvers in the month of Mordad this year in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz. These maneuvers, which will involve various operations and tactics, will be carried out to prove their combat readiness in the Persian Gulf and their ability to confront all aggressors. Such maneuvers will once again show the strength and capability of the guardians of the hallowed Islamic boundaries and the proud God-seeking defenders of the Islamic revolution. They will shatter all of the world infidels' futile efforts by their faith in the Almighty and by the continually increasing presence of the revolutionary, combatant nation on the scene of the defense of the Islamic revolution.

Further Reportage, Comment on Embassy Conflict

Foreign Ministry on Split

LD171736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] In the wake of the French Government's insistence on contravening the Vienna Convention, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced: Despite its diplomatic measures to prevent unjust treatment, and despite the fact that it was the French Government that actually started this situation, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry has severed relations with the French Government. All the consequences of this severance of relations and its side effects are to be shouldered by the French Government.

Alluding to the unlawful measures taken by the French police to prevent the departure of Iranian diplomats from that country, as well as the utterances made by France which confirm these unlawful acts, the spokesman said: Following the Islamic Republic of Iran's insistence that France adhere to the Vienna Convention; following the surrounding of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Paris, which is a flagrant violation of the Convention; and following the measure taken last night by the French Government in preventing the departure of the Iranian diplomats from that country, which shows the height of insolence in violating the Convention after the beating up of the Iranian diplomat in the French sector of the Geneva airport, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran decided to severe its relations with the French Government.

The spokesman added: Taking cognizance of Article 47 of the Convention, the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to all unlawful measures taken by the French Government which violate the Vienna Convention; it will reserve the right to retaliate. The spokesman then alluded to Gorji's situation, noting that he had not requested French residency and that, according to French laws, France has no right to consider him a resident. The spokesman said: Mr Gorji must not become a French hostage in order for them to apply illegal pressure. Considering that he enjoys diplomatic immunity, as stipulated in Clause 7 of the Vienna Convention, any violation of this clause would bring about principled, retaliatory measures by Iran within the framework of Clause 47 [as heard].

Referring to Torri, the French consul in Tehran, the spokesman said: In view of the fact that all the abuses and measures contrary to the Vienna Convention have been made by the French Government, he is therefore required to report to the office of the Islamic Revolution prosecutor general in Evin.

Mohtashemi on Cordoning Embassy

LD180939 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said here Saturday that evidently with regard to available papers and documents, members of the French Embassy and Consultate in Tehran have acted as a connecting bridge to help escape counter-revolutionaries abroad and also to link splinter groups inside Iran.

Therefore, he stressed, the French Embassy is at present surrounded by the police and the spies will be arrested and handed over to the judiciary for Islamic justice.

Speaking at the inaugural session of a joint administrative seminar of directors general and officials of revolutionary institutions, Mohtashemi stressed that Muslim people of Iran will never allow a handful of people to commit crimes and espionage acts under the pretext of diplomacy. He stressed that any espionage activity against any system violated international regulations.

On superpowers' plots in the Persian Gulf, the interior minister said that during the seven-year-old imposed war Eastern and Western superpowers and their lackey reactionaries in the region had not hesitated in rendering any military, financial, manpower, or information assistance to Iraq.

Having failed in their schemes, the superpowers were now trying to threaten that this time they would directly enter the war, Mohtashemi said. They imagined that their "scarecrow" image of being a superpower will frighten Iran, he added. But, the interior minister said, the Iranian people had already proved they were not scared of any threat and would stand dauntlessly and decisively for the materialisation of their legitimate objectives. Just as the superpowers' awe in connection with the Iraqi imposed war was shattered, especially that of the U.S., this time also their awe in the Persian Gulf would be broken by the "Defenders of the Persian Gulf", Mohtashemi said.

The interior minister stressed, "we believe that the U.S. and its Western satellites are by no means seeking a war with the Islamic Republic of Iran because they know very well that Iran will be victorious in this war." He said that they (the U.S.) are using their fleets in the Persian Gulf as "scarecrows" to test whether Iran would be scared or not, adding that they would definitely retreat when they see that Iran was standing steadfastly.

Mohtashemi said that at present a huge number of defenders of the Persian Gulf with thousands of vessels, each of which capable of sinking a large U.S. fleet, had been stationed at the Persian Gulf coast. "Islamic Revolution's Guards and Basijis (volunteers) will turn the Persian Gulf into a graveyard for the Americans or any other aggressor forces," Mohtashemi remarked.

Security Tightened Around Embassy

LD192120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following the summoning of the French consul in Tehran by the Evin Prison Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office to explain acts of espionage by French Embassy staff, and following the refusal of this diplomat to refer to the Prosecutor's Office, the security around the French Embassy in Tehran has been tightened. Security forces, comprising members of the Islamic Revolution Committee and the police, have cordoned off the streets leading to the embassy, are searching those entering and leaving the area, and are keeping the French Embassy building under tight security.

It should pointed out that Paul Torri, the French consul in Tehran, in accordance with the summons issued by the Islamic Revolution Prosecutor's Office, is charged with having connections with refugee counterrevolutionaries and creating the necessary facilities for their activities and escape from the country. He is also charged with being involved in smuggling networks and taking antiques and foreign currency out of the country.

Musavi on Repatriation

LD191216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] At the conclusion of a Cabinet meeting this morning, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi commented on the repatri-

ation of French and Iranian diplomats following the severing of bilateral relations. He stated:

[Begin recording] [Musavi] ...is being discussed with us. [incomplete sentences as heard] That is to say, if the French had acted as human beings, naturally in the case of two countries that sever relations when a number of people from the two countries leave by air or land, these people would return. However, the French showed their arrogance at the outset in stopping a number of diplomats at their frontiers. As was observed and shown on television, our embassy was insolently cordoned off in a fierce and brutal manner.

Following the announcement of severing relations, the situation has become mired in negotiations and calculations. The two foreign ministries are now involved in negotiations through conventional and diplomatic channels about exchanging the diplomats in question and about placing interests' sections of the two sides under the protection of other embassies in the capitals. France has nominated Italy and we have nominated Pakistan to protect our interests in France. Our negotiations are continuing and we will see what the outcome is.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi, the United States has described the USSR as a threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to maintain its illegitimate presence in the region. Can your excellency comment on this?

[Musavi] The United States has been doing various things; for example, it has now begun to insist on a resolution by the Security Council as a pretext for its aggressive presence in the Persian Gulf. As is in the nature of superpowers, they have repeatedly cited each other's presence in the region as sufficient reason for their own presence.

The United States may be doing this in connection with the USSR. However, the recent stand adopted by the USSR, in my view, has left no grounds for that policy. You may have observed, as was announced repeatedly by the Islamic Republic, that the regional powers can safeguard their own interests and regional security once the vessels of other powers vacate the region. Furthermore, there is no need for the presence of those vessels. The proposal that has been made refers to all vessels. This has been pursued by us and we have announced that the security of the Persian Gulf will be maintained if Iraq halts its attacks on ships. Given all this, when we are faced with the United States' persistance with its ploys -- despite criticism inside the United States about its presence in the Persian Gulf -- we must accept that the United States is searching for a pretext.

I forgot to mention that as part of the Cabinet meeting discussions you asked about, we received a report from [deputy foreign minister] Larijani on his visit to the USSR. He spoke about the discussions he held there, particularly the expansion of relations with the USSR, a topic we also discussed. Recently, positive negotiations have been continuing between us about the transfer of oil through Soviet territory and via the Black Sea. This topic was also discussed by the Cabinet before we digressed to discussing high prices and campaigns against them. [end recording]

Lebanese Hizballah Condemns French Policy
LD171719 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 17, IRNA — The Lebanese Hizballah issued a statement here Thursday condemning France's policy of making trouble for the Islamic Republic of Iran and cautioned the French Government not to fuel the crisis which could endanger its interests throughout the whole Islamic world.

Describing the French policy as a step aimed at enforcing the hegemony of global arrogance, the statement said that the French Government by towing certain Western countries policy line was attempting to foment political tension to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to surrender to an ignominious peace to end the imposed war, which has threatened the interests of colonialist powers.

The statement, moreover, warned the regimes ruling in Bahrain, Tunisia and Egypt not to pressure Muslims nor violate their human rights or else their big-power-backed regimes would be wiped out from the face of the earth by the power of Islam.

Hizballah also rejected the U.N. under-secretary general's charges accusing the Lebanese resistance of being responsible for problems of UNIFIL forces stationed in Lebanon. It pointed out that UNIFIL forces play silent spectator role to the despotism of the Zionist regime in destroying Lebanon and making its people homeless.

Lebanese Hizballah noted that the only way to liberate Lebanon was to continue fighting till all imperialist forces were expelled from there.

The statement concluded that the flare-up camp clashes in Lebanon was a new plot to divert Lebanese attention from its major enemy "Israel."

Majlis Speaker's Sermon on Gulf War, Kuwaiti Ships
LD172120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1312 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Friday prayer sermon by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, at Tehran University on 17 July — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The most important problem we have, a problem facing the whole world, is the war, the problem of the Persian Gulf, and the problems which surround them.

I will tell you about the current situation. To some extent, my remarks are directed to the people of the governments of world arrogance, such as the Americans, the French, and the British. The media will communicate my remarks to these peoples.

The people must pay attention to the fact that the U.S. President and some of his associates are dragging the world — if they tell the truth about their intentions — into a crisis, a crisis that after a few years will result in the U.S. President becoming the Hitler

of our time. He will drag the United States into corruption and he must be held accountable for any resulting atrocities.

I am going to tell you my views on these events. World blasphemy, led principally by the United States in the Western bloc, used every means it had to try to crush the Islamic revolution, a revolution it deems to be against the interests of arrogance. World blasphemy used all its means in an indirect way and its most important instrument was the Ba'th Party of Iraq. It gave the Ba'thParty of Iraq the capability to fight in order to suppress the Islamic revolution or to limit it, but it realized it could not do so. [passage omitted]

World blasphemy gave everything it could to Iraq. What more could it give? So, world blasphemy gave up; they had given the best aircraft that an army like that of Iraq can use. [passage omitted]

World blasphemy then realized that its servant could go no further, that world blasphemy itself must now come into the arena. And that is what it is doing. It was unpalatable for world blasphemy to say that England, France, the United States, and others fought against Iran and defeated this revolution. If such an event takes place — it will not take place — then even this revolution will be victorious because a revolution cannot be killed; the revolution is in the hearts of the people.

If three superpowers come to attack a government of the Third World and create difficulties for it, this in itself is a reason for victory; it is a reason for greatness. They did not want to enter this arena; they claimed they were neutral. The United States is still saying, with impudence, it is neutral, and it thinks that people will believe this.

They were forced to enter the arena, and this, in our opinion, involves two stages: One of these is already happening, and that is the stage of psychological warfare. We cannot be sure that this psychological warfare will not result in war, war on a battlefield involving weapons. What can be seen at present is that the superpowers think for the time being that psychological warfare may solve the problem. Three countries, their axis being the United States with France and Britain following it, have reached certain agreements among themselves with the United States taking the lead.

The war of the embassies, which has now come to the fore and involves us and France and Britain, is not inseparable from what is happening in the Persian Gulf. In addition, they are also dragging in the Security Council -- that is, what is happening inside the Security Council and what the three powers are doing: to expand psychological warfare. All these things are related.

During the past few months, French and British leaders have expressed a desire to expand their relations with us. You have no idea how many private and public, official and unofficial messages have reached us from these countries wishing to raise relations to the ambassadorial level. Anyone who comes here -- recently the person in charge of the British interest section was here and came to see me -- he wanted to know why we do not have (?relations) at the ambassadorial level, or why we do not accept high-level officials from Britain. They were interested in this issue, so do not believe that the crisis is their real policy; their real policy and desire is to have embassies in Iran just as they did in the past when they were present within our political scene with their forces and their diplomats. And alongside these, they had their so-called cultural societies which were really espionage institutes imparting Western culture and other things. They are interested in these issues, and it is not as if they are seeking to break relations and such things, but at this stage their plans are to do this.

Inside France, both the Socialists and the Gaullists, both the right and the left, all believe that they should strengthen relations with Iran. The same thing applies to Britain and the United States, too, the Republicans and Democrats — all of them want the same thing, but they all have internal problems that make this impossible. The Gaullists want to do this by themselves, and the Socialists also want to do the same, and this is a problem they face from within. It is their problem; it is not ours. It is an internal problem of France. If the French Socialist Party sees that what they have sabotaged has been corrected by the rightists, and the French people see tomorrow that its relations with Iran have been mended by Chirac's clique, then this is not workable within the context of France's internal problems — the Socialist Party must sabotage the work.

As we were proceeding, we suddenly saw that the French Interior Ministry, which is in the other clique or (?the administrative machinery) of this clique, carried out an incident. It instigated a so-called judicial incident, a total fabrication, to put pressure on Chirac's government. Their internal disputes give rise to these problems.

At the present time in the Western countries, party and personal interests overshadow the interests of the country. In the United States, the dispute going on in the White House, in the Congress, and among Senators and newspapers [words indistinct] and everywhere, reflects their internal contradictions.

Legitimate interests are accepted by all: Something should be done to free the hostages. But what happens is that if a particular party succeeds in freeing the hostages, then that party would gain more votes. So one party has to sabotage the other so it will not succeed. These drawn-out events now occuring in the United States — for several months now they have kept the President in this moribund state and have, according to them, turned him into a lame duck — are due to the same internal contradictions. They are preoccupied with internal disputes and cannot make proper decisions, and these conditions as a whole give rise to other things; namely, this same Persian Gulf issue. The President of the United States was defeated in the disgraceful McFarlane affair; he was really defeated, and this has been accepted everywhere. [passage omitted]

If an independent country stands up to the superpowers, they really cannot do anything worthwhile. If you see that they have an imposing presence in the world, it is because other countries are very weak, wretched, and helpless; they fear their own shadow and the superpowers in turn set up a hue and cry. The United States, Britain, and France are not in a position to carry out anything serious in a place like the Persian Gulf unless the situation is driven to extremities [kard beh ostokhan beresad].

At the moment, psychological warfare is in use. The United States has suffered from Watergate, and to use their own term, from Irangate, and the Republican Party is hurting. The man he had appointed — it transpired that he was lying, he was dishonest. These people are so dishonest that even in this small deal they had with us they really showed they are not to be trusted: They paid a [words indistinct] cheated, they lied, they did not pay on time. Yet, if they had waived the interest gained on this small 30-40 million [currency not specified] deal and carried off a more healthy deal — what, after all, is the amount of interest on a deal worth 30-40 million that one should show one's (?corrupt) inner nature for its sake — then their hostages might have been freed and perhaps even the door they wanted to open to compensate for their sinister past in Iran, to some extent, may have opened the way for them to achieve their policies.

But their mean and malicious nature which, for instance, counts something worth $1,000 or 2,000, or, in order to benefit from a propaganda viewpoint, in the future disembarks cargo in Israel that embarked from the United States so that they can turn around tomorrow and say that this has come from Israel — these kinds of bitter and incorrect methods were carried out by them and show that they are not to be trusted at any time, not even when they are pleading.

Nor the French. The same problem exists in France. They are thieves and plunderers. [passage omitted]

Well now, under these circumstances, with their internal problems preventing them from doing anything serious in the Persian Gulf, in the war between Iran and Iraq, they now proceed with psychological warfare, and this is what you are witnessing now. France cannot do anything more than this war of embassies; it cannot say anything any more or create more than this amount of commotion. Britain is the same. [passage omitted]

This psychological warfare has now been transferred to the United States instead of here. Even before they started, it boomeranged. But we should accept the likelihood — things are very serious now for them, as their honor and reputation are at stake; nothing remains of their honor in the countries of the Persian Gulf or those countries under their domination. [passage omitted]

It is possible, therefore, that they may now embark on some mischief, and we should be ready, our people should presume that this will occur. Of course, this is a very weak possibility, this stupidity, but they may just do it.

Great wars have always happened like this in the world, and if Saddam had calculated properly, he would not have entered this war. But his stupidity dragged him to this place, and this lot too may come.

We should prepare ourselves and strengthen the rear of our battlefronts. Be ready; the war has reached a sensitive point. These moves are aimed at maintaining the balance of the Ba'th Party. We should not allow this until the day when, God willing, the Iraqi nation will be liberated.

Velayati Opposes Proposed UN Resolution on Gulf

LD181900 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18 IRNA — West German Ambassador to Tehran Armin Fraetag met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today and handed over a message from his German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher on recent move of the United Nations' Security Council concerning the Iraqi-imposed war.

In the meeting Velayati reiterated principled stances of the Islamic Republic towards the war as well as the need for condemning the aggressor Iraqi regime by the Council.

Under the current circumstances, Velayati said the most practical measure of the Council is to preclude the war from spreading in the Persian Gulf, otherwise, he added, the Council would not be able to modify its previous one-sided and unjust positions.

Stressing that Iran will in no way accept the proposed draft resolution of the Security Council, Velayati said approval of the resolution will cripple the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar from pursuing his effective and positive efforts.

Velayati also expressed hope that members of the Council would realistically refuse to make ineffective decisions, and instead try to prevent the Iraqi regime from spreading the war.

UN Envoy Interviewed on Resolution

LD191038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] According to IRNA, Rajai'e-Khorassani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, has replied to questions at a press conference.

Regarding the Security Council Resolution on the Iran-Iraq war, which is to be submitted for approval early this week, Rajai'e-Khorassani said: If the Security Council is a responsible body, it should wait 2 weeks and then submit its resolution for a vote. Mr Rejai'e-Khorassani added: Since America has decided to flag Kuwaiti tankers, we must see if the Council delays its vote; whether America too will delay once more its plans to escort Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian Gulf.

As for what Iran's response will be to this resolution, Mr Rejai'e-Khorassani said: With regard to Security Council resolutions, there has been no change. He said that when the Security Council informs us of the vote, he will relay the resolution to Tehran for study.

The UN ambassador called the Security Council a club, a club in which five permanent members have created another smaller and private club and have left the others behind closed doors.

In reply to a question as to whether the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to receive the UN secretary general in Tehran, Rajai'e-Khorassani said: Mr Perez de Cuellar can always travel to Tehran. We will be very happy to receive him; this has nothing to do with the decision of the Security Council.

Rajai'e-Khorassani was asked: In view of the decision of the Security Council, why has Tehran allowed its relations with two permanent member states of the Council — that is, France and England — to deteriorate? Rajai'e-Khorassani said: This depends on whether one attaches any importance to the Security Council. From our point of view the Security Council has no importance.

Tehran Analyzes Past, Present U.S. Gulf Policy

NC190837 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "The Persian Gulf — Venue of the Defeat of U.S. Foreign Policy!"

[Text] During the visit of our Foreign Ministry's deputy minister for economic and political affairs to the Soviet Union, both sides noted the dangerous moves of the United States in the Persian Gulf. The two countries expressed their opposition to any kind of strengthening of the U.S. military presence in the region. During her recent visit to the United States, the British prime minister voiced support for the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf for the purpose of ensuring the safety of shipping.

Since the beginning of the seventies, at a time when declining British military and economic strength forced the government, in what it considered an appropriate step, to bestow its leadership of the Western domineering powers, especially with regard to the Persian Gulf, on the United States, U.S. politicians have given a special place to the region in their strategic assessments. It has become customary to attribute the name of each U.S. president to the doctrine that symbolizes the policy that was followed during that particular era. Therefore, in view of the role which the United States assumed in the 1970's as the guardian of capitalist world's interests, it is not surprising that the doctrine of two U.S. Presidents in the aftermath of that period should focus on the Persian Gulf.

The Nixon doctrine was based upon delegating an important regional role to pro-U.S. countries such as the shah's regime in Iran, Egypt, and Israel. This strategy acclaimed the shah's regime in Iran as the sentinel of Western influence headed by the United States. That country armed the shah's regime to the teeth with its petrodollars, so that on the one hand it could ensure a peaceful route for the transport of oil to the Western industrial world; on the other hand it would act as a bastion against the proliferation of Soviet influence and any anti-U.S. movements in the region. However, the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the dangers posed to regimes politically affiliated with the United States in the aftermath of the revolution -- in the form of an Islamic resurgence in the Middle East in general and the Persian Gulf in particular -- marked the defeat of the Nixon doctrine.

In order to foil the negative effects of such a defeat, U.S. politicians declared a new strategy called the Carter doctrine. This was based upon strengthening U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf as a substitute for the shah. However, the utter degradation of the U.S. forces as a result of the Tabas incident, and the defeat of the U.S. Marines at the hands of the Muslim Lebanese revolutionaries, shook the very foundations of the Carter doctrine.

Ever since Reagan came to power, and now, as his second term is nearing its conclusion, an overt disparity of opinion pertaining to Middle East issues, and especially to the Persian Gulf, has characterized various U.S. echelons. In view of the fact that the two previous domineering strategies of U.S. politicians, which evolved into the Nixon and Carter doctrines, retreated when confronted by the Iranian revolution, it appears that the recent adventurism of the Reagan administration, which is being implemented without any specific strategy, will result in a defeat more disgraceful than the former ones.

It is clear even to the people of the United States that the policy of the country's ruling party with regard to the Persian Gulf is analogous to plunging blindfolded into a quagmire — a quagmire that was previously experienced in Vietnam! The difference between the issues of Vietnam and Iran is that while U.S. aggression in Vietnam was in the form of the defense of a nation, U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf will bring in its wake a self-sacrificing and extensive onslaught by a nation!

President Khamene'i Arrives in Tabriz 19 Jul

LD191517 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpts] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i arrived in Tabriz this morning. He was welcomed by Tabriz Friday Imam Ayatollah Malakuti and Azarbayjan Friday imams, provincial, military, and security officials, and the families of martyrs. In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent at the Tabriz airport, President Khamene'i explained that he is making the tour in order to meet the people of Azarbayjan. [passage omitted]

About a Security Council resolution, the president affirmed: We have stated our Persian Gulf policy explicitly and resolutely. We believe the United States will try to influence the process of issuing a UN Security Council resolution. In that case, such a resolution, which represents the imposition of power by the superpowers, will be unacceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, if the United Nations allows its secretary general to act without bias and influence, then we will view the organization as a world organization.

At a gathering of families of martyrs, POWs, MIAs, and the devout held in Martyr Aqdami Square following his arrival in Tabriz this morning, the president spoke about recent developments between France and Iran, saying: The world's thinkers, analysts, and reputable publishers know only too well that France has confronted a great power and a mighty movement and that it has been defeated. Today it is France's turn, as it was the turn of an American president who was toppled. This power and might is rooted in the blood of the martyrs. [passage omitted]

Concerning U.S. threats, the president stated: Today the situation is such that the U.S. Administration, particularly Reagan and his aides, are feeling the pressure and do not know what to do next. Their arrival in the Persian Gulf is a defeat for U.S. rulers on a grand scale. If the U.S. fleet arrives in the Persian

Gulf and sinks in the Perisan Gulf's waters because of the fire of the Islamic fighters, the United States will be defeated and will lose face. We are victorious whether the United States arrives in the Persian Gulf or not.

Pointing out the abject status of world arrogance compared with the Islamic Revolution, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: The Islamic Republic must not yield when facing up to powerful and wealthy powers in order to build its own Islamic society. It is thus that the oppressed peoples will join it. [passage omitted]

Assails Proposed UN Resolution

LD201103 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Prov., July 20, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that the Security Council's resolution which is expected to be released soon, has been prepared before hand under the influence of the U.S. and President Reagan and "in our opinion it is not worth a penny." President Khamene'i who is currently visiting this northwestern province added that Iran was not opposed to the U.N. but rather disagreed with its subservience to a superpower.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) told a large gathering here that the expected resolution whose main designer is the criminal U.S., invites Iran to sit at the negotiation table (with an aggressor) to yield to an ignominous peace. "If Iran does not accept the resolution, it will be internationally pressured, more than ever," the president said. "The superpowers are making a mistake and are ignorant of the spirit of devotion and resistance of our heroic nation," Khamene'i remarked.

Stressing Iran's clear and decisive stance on the Persian Gulf, the SDC head said, "We are seeking peace in the Persian Gulf and believe that no one should attack ships there. Our proposal is that all ships should be secure there (Persian Gulf). If our ships are attacked in the Persian Gulf, we will decisively retaliate and in (?this connection) it makes no difference whatever flag the ships fly."

On the superpowers' new plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president said that Iran was already aware of the new schemings of the "diplomatic war" and had taken the due stance. But, he stressed, Western analysts and even the French themselves believe that the loser would be France and not Iran. "We will not retreat even one step," President Khamene'i said.

He told the large gathering that the Islamic Republic of Iran despite collaborations of the East and the West in imposing the war and the economic siege, would overcome all aggressions, by relying firmly on its martyrdom-seeking and resistant people.

Earlier on the same day President Khamene'i met ulema and students of the 'Talebiyeh' School of Theology where he stressed on the further strengthening of ties between ulema and the people and also on expansion of theological centers. President Khamene'i arrived here Sunday for a five-day visit to the East and West Azarbayjan Provinces.

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Moscow, Holds Talks

For Soviet and Iranian media coverage of Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Larijani's visit to Moscow and the accompanying discussions, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 20 July 87 Soviet *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Larijani Reports on USSR's 'Decisive Support'

LD181714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Larijani, the deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs who headed a delegation to the Soviet Union, met with President Khamene'i this morning upon his return.

While conveying warm greetings from Mr Gromyko, the Soviet president, he informed President Khamene'i of the Soviet Union's decisive support for Iran's stand to combat U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Larijani also briefed the president on the outcome of his talks with the Soviet president and foreign minister which covered plots hatched by foreign powers in the Persian Gulf, international cooperation, the Security Council, and the expansion of relations between Iran and the USSR, especially concerning oil and the agreements reached in that regard.

Pakistan's Sattar, Besharati Discuss Gulf

LD181916 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Visiting Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar met with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here Saturday. The Pakistani official elaborated his government's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis, stating that Pakistan believes the situation of the Persian Gulf and freedom of navigation should be studied separate from the war issue.

On his recent trip to Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region, Abdus Sattar said "I learned that they are worried about the Soviet influence in the Persian Gulf." Pakistan believes Iraqi attacks on Iran and third countries' ships in the Persian Gulf is the main cause for concern over the expansion of the war, he added.

"We have told all regional countries and even U.S. officials that Pakistani people and government highly respect the Islamic Republic, and that they cannot tolerate any aggression on Iran," said the Pakistani F.M. [Foreign Ministry] official.

In response, Besharati said that the crisis created in the Persian Gulf is merely a bid to preserve Saddam (Husayn) in power adding that the Islamic Republic has shown during the seven years of the imposed war that it is against its expansion. "We cannot allow ships to carry weapons for the Iraqi regime," he said adding the Islamic Republic is ready to counter any foreign power's intervention with all its might in the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian official expressed Iran's sympathy on the recent bomb explosions in Karachi, and said Iran and Pakistan share the deepest cultural and political bonds and enjoy good relations.

Confers With Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD182003 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar conferred with deputy foreign minister in charge of political affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam on bilateral relations and international issues, here Saturday. Abdus Sattar said Pakistan is a "friend" of Iran and that it wishes to cooperate with the Islamic Republic on the Persian Gulf issue.

On Afghan Premier Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand's meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Abdus Sattar said that Pakistan believes it to be one counterproductive to the interests of the Islamabad government, Afghan people and Iran. The Pakistani official stressed on further cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, especially in "these troubled times".

In response, Sheykh ol-Eslam said that the Persian Gulf recent developments and intensification of the crisis is not to the benefit of the regional countries. "We enjoy ample ability to do anything," he emphasised.

Meets With Musavi

LD191738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] This evening, Abdus Sattar, Pakistani deputy foreign affairs minister, met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. At the meeting Abdus Sattar reported on his tour of four Persian Gulf littoral states, saying: I have been given the duty of conveying the result of my tour to you by President Ziaul Haq.

Prime Minister Musavi said: The domestic problems of the United States have substantially influenced its foreign policies. The adventurist and inadequately planned policies of the United States in the Persian Gulf prove that the United States has lost its balance. Obviously, our country has a clear policy. We have decided to stand firm for the sake of our country's independence and freedom, and we will fight for it. Musavi stressed: Our objective is to safeguard regional security, but any uncalculated step taken by the United States can lead to a much wider crisis than the existing one.

Conveying greetings from Prime Minister Junejo of Pakistan at the conclusion of his meeting, Pakistani Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Abdus Sattar declared that his country's prime minister would visit Iran in near future.

Meets With Larijani

LD192011 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — Pakistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar reviewed the political situation of the Persian Gulf at a meeting with Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of international and economic relations Mohammad-Javad Larijani here Sunday. The Pakistani envoy expressed similar views as the Iranian official in relation with the major issues of the region. He said Pakistan greatly values her relations with Iran.

Abdus Sattar also criticized the Kabul Government for a series of terroristic acts in Pakistan. He said recently the Baghdad government had voiced support for the ruling government in Afghanistan which he said causes indignation of Pakistanis, Afghans and Iranians.

In response, the Iranian Foreign Ministry official upheld the viewpoints of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry official noting that the common enemies of Pakistan and Iran resent improvement of relations between the two countries.

Elsewhere in the meeting Larijani criticized the U.N. Security Council for trying to formulate resolutions without respect to the rights of Iran and the factual realities of the Iraq-Iran war. He said such documents as the Draft Resolution of the U.N. Security Council brokered by the United States merely serves to further discredit the United Nations as a world forum.

Discusses Gulf With Velayati

LD192038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Abdus Sattar, the Pakistani deputy minister of foreign affairs, on the 2d day of his stay in Iran today met with Velayati, our country's foreign minister. During the meeting, Abdus Sattar outlined the views and stands of the Pakistani Government regarding the recent developments in the Persian Gulf and mutual issues. He said: The superpowers are trying to create tension in the Persian Gulf, contrary to the interests of regional countries and weaken them. He called Iran's policy regarding the maintenance security and good-neighborly relations in the Persian Gulf a success.

Then, referring to Iran's policy regarding Persian Gulf countries, Foreign Minister Velayati said: We have good relations with countries in the region, but we differ on our views of Kuwait. Kuwait has given practical support to the aggressor regime of Iraq and has placed her ports, roads, and facilities at Iraq's disposal. It was Kuwait which invited the superpowers into the Persian Gulf. He added: We strongly believe that it is regional countries alone which can maintain security in the Persian Gulf. We condemn the superpower presence and will fight it.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,900

LD171743 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — Iranian Navy intercepted and searched eight foreign tankers and cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz, but let them proceed on their voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard, according to a military communique released here Friday.

The communique, number 2900 of the Joint Staff said that Muslim combatants of Iran smashed a limited Iraqi attack in Hoseyniyeh region, southern fronts, at 19:30 GMT Thursday, forcing them to flee. The enemy forces backed by artillery fire and some gunboats sustained heavy casualties, it added. Exchange of artillery fire raged heavily in Majnun Islands between Iranian Muslim combatants and Ba'thist forces, said the communique.

In southern fronts, the communique said, Iran's gendarmerie forces killed ten Iraqi troops and destroyed some vehicles, gun-emplacements and six observation posts of theirs. Engineering activities of the enemy were also brought to a halt, it added.

The communique said that exchange of artillery and tank fire continued sporadically in Bakhtaran and Ilam regions. Iranian patrols inflicted heavy casualties and damage on an Iraqi patrol in Helaleh region, it added.

Over 15 watch posts and gun emplacements of the Iraqi forces were set fire in western fronts by Iranian Muslim combatants, said the communique.

Some Iraqi bunkers along with forces stationed in them, were demolished in north-western fronts yesterday in exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire which was somewhat more intense in Hajj 'Umran operational region and on hgts [heights] 2519, said the communique adding the a munitions depot, some machine guns as well as an anti-aircraft gun of the Ba'thist troops were also set ablaze.

IRGC Shells Zubayr, Umm Qasr

LD171838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] The general headquarters of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced: In response to the recent mischief of the criminal regime of Iraq in the Persian Gulf, last Wednesday night the oil installations of Zubayr township and the installations of Umm Qasr port were brought under the powerful fire of the coastal artillery of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and considerable damage was done to these installations.

Communique No 2,901

LD181652 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — Three civilians were martyred and 12 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed a village near the border city of Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province, at 14:15 GMT Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 2901st Joint Staff communique said that Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi offensive in Sumar, western fronts, Friday night, killing or wounding a considerable number of enemy soldiers and retaking Heights 402 and Kuh-e Neyriz. 67 Iraqi soldiers were also taken captive and the other attacking troops were forced to retreat.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and search 14 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying goods for Iraq. The navy coastal artillery fire also prevented Iraqi vessels from approaching Al-Bakr and Al-'Amaya oil platforms.

Fifteen Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacement and observations psots together with two vehicles destroyed in a northwestern front when hit by Iranian artillery fire Friday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces killed and wounded an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers and destroyed 15 enemy emplacements of light and heavy weapons in parts of the battlefields Friday. An Iraqi soldier surrendered to Iranian Muslim combatants and sought asylum in a southern front yesterday.

The artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted heavy casualties on Iraqi troops and halted movement of enemy vehicle columns in Kani-Shaykh, Mehran, Helaleh and Anjireh, western fronts, Friday.

Iraqi troops sustained several casualties and losses when a number of enemy vehicles ferrying troops in the western theater of Naft-e Shah were shelled by Iranian Muslim forces, the communique concluded.

Commander on Battle Successes

LD191414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] In a heroic repulsion of the Zionist enemy's offensive in the Sumar operational sector, three brigades belonging to the Iraqi regime have been destroyed by 60-80 percent. In these operations, the brave men of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces succeeded in forcing the enemy to recognize its inability to capture the strategic 402 Heights and Kuh-e Neyriz. This was announced in an interview with IRNA by a senior operational commander, who, speaking about this offensive which took place late on Friday 17 July, said: By amassing a force equivalent to one strengthened division, consisting of the 78th, 417th, and 425th Infantry Brigades, aided by two infantry battalions, one tank and one commando battalion from the 108th Brigade and elements from the 76th Brigade, the Ba'thist Army of Iraq in these operations entered into action aimed at capturing the sensitive 402 Heights in Sumar, in a front which was 8 km wide and 3 km deep.

Describing the conditions in the region and the importance of the 402 Heights in the Sumar region, he said: The 402 Heights are important because they overlook the city of Mandali in Iraq. If they were occupied by Ba'thist forces, they would have created a front 20 km deep and our forces would have been compelled -- in order to confront them [words indistinct] in the region which would have come under the direct fire of the enemy -- to evacuate the region.

This high-ranking Army commander, pointing to the self-sacrifices of the forces stationed on the 402 Heights, stressed: In this operation Iraqi forces backed by seven artillery battalions,

which laid down heavy firepower in order to strengthen the morale of the active units before advancing and achieving some of their goals, fled and withdrew as soon as they clashed with Islamic forces in hand-to-hand combat. He added: In the first hours after the start of the operations, the brave forces of Islam alongside their commander confronted the active units of Iraqi forces and, after inflicting extensive losses and casualties on these forces, recaptured all the sensitive heights and land in the region and drove back the enemy.

Pointing to the enemy casualties in these operations, he said: The number of dead and wounded among the Iraqi forces thus far exceeds 1,500, and Ba'thist corpses litter the entire region.

He added: In these operations 30 tanks and 120 vehicles and items of armored equipment of the enemy were destroyed and a large number of other articles, including several mortars and a large amount of various types of guns were captured by the forces of Islam. Up to this morning, backed by its aircraft and helicopters which are conducting sorties for air cover as well as for strengthening the morale of its dispersed forces in the region, the enemy has embarked on offensives on several occasions, in which it faced the full fire of the artillery and the steadfastness and resistance of the forces of Islam and, sustaining more losses and casualties, has been forced to withdraw.

In conclusion, the high-ranking Army commander pointed to the losses inflicted on Iraqi active units in these operations and said: Thus far the 78th Brigade has sustained losses of 80 percent; the 417th Brigade has sustained losses of 60 percent; and the corpses of their personnel can be seen all over the region even now.

800 Iraqi Casualties in Sumar

LD191955 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran smashed an Iraqi counteroffensive in Sumar theater, western fronts, at 05:30 GMT Sunday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the attacking enemy troops. A high ranking Iranian military commander told reporteres that the aborted Iraqi counterattack had been launched by Iraq's special Brigade 68 and Brigade 417, reinforced by a tank battalion. The commander said two battalions of the special Brigade 68 were destroyed 70 percent noting that at least 800 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a large amount of enemy military equipment destroyed in the crushed counter-assault.

Prior to the smashed counterattack, he said, Iraqi helicopters attempted to land troops behind Heights 402 and Kuh-e Neyriz, Abu Obeyda outpost and Esma'il Khan [names as received] hills in the region but failed and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi Forces Killed in 'Ambush'

LD191248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] According to a report by the General Staff of the three branches of the Revolution Guards Corps, the combatants of Islam at 0200 yesterday set an ambush on the Hezar-Qoleh axis and the general Nam-Nam Heights situated in the "Nasr-1" operational sector, along the route of the deceived forces of the Iraqis, and succeeded in killing or wounding 50 mercenaries of Saddam's regime. The corpses of 15 of these mercenaries remain in the region. In these operations some communications equipment, armor, light weapons, and night-vision binoculars were captured by the fighters of Islam.

Communique No 2,902

LD191928 Tehran IRNA in English 1924 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA — In response to an aborted Iraqi assault in Sumar, western fronts, Friday night, Muslim forces of Iran launched a heavy counterattack in the war theater early Saturday, killing or wounding a large number of enemy soldiers and capturing 67 others, including 12 officers and NCO's.

Announcing the above here today, the 2902nd Joint Staff Communique said that Iraqi Brigades 425, 417 and 78 and two armoured battalions were either destroyed or driven out of the region.

The attacking Iranian forces also completely ourged Heights 402 and Kuh-e Neyriz of Iraqi troops, destroying a large number of enemy tanks, armoured personnel carriers and vehicles. Two Iraqi munitions dumps were also set ablaze and a great deal of enemy military equipment seized intact by the Iranian Muslim combatants during the counteroffensive. The battle is continuing in the region.

Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 16 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed 15 of them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying goods for Iraq. A cargo ship suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq was escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection.

The artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi motorized units in Mehran and Helaleh and on an enemy armoured column east of Al-Basra yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the battlefields Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying 10 gun emplacements and one truck of theirs. Iraqi engineering operations were checked in Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts, Saturday, the communique concluded.

12 Iraqis Killed; 9 Captured

LD192007 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 19, IRNA — At least 12 Iraqi troops were killed and wounded in western fronts over Saturday and Sunday when Muslim combatants of Iran destroyed three Iraqi trucks carrying munitions as well as a personnel carrier of the enemy forces.

Iraqi forces attempted to strengthen their positions in Sumar

region twice over the past twenty-four hours, but their activities were brought to a halt by heavy fire of the Muslim combatants.

Nine Iraqi POWs, recently taken captive by Muslim forces of Iran are undergoing medical treatment in hospital here.

The nine Iraqi soldiers were taken prisoners in Sumar region where exchange of heavy artillery fire raged on over Saturday and Sunday.

Umm Qasr Shelled

LD192004 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 19, IRNA — Over 30 Iraqi troops were killed and injured over the past 24 hours when Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications near Umm Qasr port and Al-Nashwah road.

Five munitions dumps, two mini-Katyusha, four IFA vehicles, over 15 bunkers, gun emplacements and observation posts of the Iraqi forces were also destroyed in the said regions.

Parts of Umm Qasr port and Al-Nashwah town of Iraq were set afire as a result of exploding enemy munitions.

Meanwhile, futile attempts of Iraqi Navy units near Al-Bakr and Al-Ummaya were controlled and halted by the Muslim forces over the same period.

'Horrific' Attack Launched

LD200915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0907 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear Listeners: During the last 24 hours, the mighty fighters of Islam staged a horrific onslaught on the positions and bases of the Ba'thist enemy deep inside Iraq, gaining fresh victories.

As soon as we receive more news of this operation, we will inform you.

'Fath-8' Operation Launched

LD200926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0908 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. The combatants of the Ramadan Headquarters, the center of the Guards Corps irregular warfare, yesterday commenced operation "Fath-8," codenamed "O Prophet of God," 150 km inside Iraq. They achieved considerable victories against the Ba'thist forces.

We will inform you of the latest victories in the operation in a few minutes.

Iraq Suffers 'Heavy Losses'

LD200943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0924 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O warrior nation, please pay attention! The heightened struggles by the Iraqi nation extended the field of guerrilla operations against the regime ruling in Baghdad from the frontier provinces of that country to Al-Mawsil Province, deep inside Iraqi territory.

According to reports received here, in the course of the victorious "Fath-8" operations, which began yesterday as a response to continued evil acts by the enemy in chemical bombings and destruction of Kurdish villages in northern Iraq and also to facilitate the struggles of the innocent people of that country against the Ba'th regime in Iraq, the forces operating under the command of Ramadan Headquarters inflicted heavy losses on the abject enemy forces.

Kurdish Forces Capture Atrush

LD200957 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to reports from Ramadan Headquarters, the combatants of that headquarters comprising a special airborne brigade and the Islamic division of Iraqi Kurdistan, in an audacious guerrilla operation brought under their control the town of Atrush, in Al-Mawsil Province in Iraq, after completely destroying predetermined targets.

The military centers of the Iraqi regime in Atrush were among the most important bases for suppressing the Iraqi people in the area, especially the people in the liberated towns of Aqrah and Shaykhan.

Kurds Capture Arms Train

LD201008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0949 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. According to reports from inside Iraq, following the stepping up of the struggles of the Muslim people in northern Iraq, the brave Arab tribesmen of the Euphrates region of southern Iraq, in an audacious operation attacked a train carrying weapons and ammunition between the towns of Al-Diwaniyah and Nasiriyah, capturing the weapons and ammunition on the train.

According to reports from Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Guards Corps Ground Forces, several enemy troops were killed or injured during the operation, and a number of them were captured.

Following this operation, the Ba'thist regime attempted to crush the Muslim Arabs. Using planes, helicopter gunships, and infantry, it attacked the people in the area. However, thanks to the resistance and bravery of the tribesmen, the enemy was forced to retreat after suffering heavy losses and casualties.

Capture of Atrush Detailed
LD201026 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1007 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to reports received from the "Fath-8" operational region, during the first few hours of the operations military posts and a fortress around Atrush were destroyed in the surprise attack by the Islamic Forces. The personnel stationed at the above posts were either killed, injured, or captured.

The reports indicate that the machinegun battery of the artillery unit at Atrush also has been set ablaze and destroyed in the course of yesterday's operations.

Targets Destroyed in Atrush
LD201031 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1019 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O Muslim ummah! O self-sacrificing nation, please pay attention. According to reports from Ramadan Headquarters, following 7 hours of heroic fighting for the capture of the town of Atrush and control of the roads leading to the town, in addition to destroying the headquarters of the Popular Army [Jaysh al-Sha'bi], the district office building, the Ba'th party center, and the Security Organization building in the town, which were among the most important centers for suppressing the Iraqi people, more than 700 Ba'thist, Zionist forces of Iraq were killed or injured.

Iraqi Attack Repulsed
LD201036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1022 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The suprise attack by the Islamic combatants has denied any ability of decision-making by the defeated commanders of the Iraqi Ba'thist Armed Forces. Following the blows dealt to the enemy, two battalions of Special Forces were despatched to confront the brave warriors of Islam in the region. Thanks to the brave, steadfast, and mighty men of Islam, their combat formations were disrupted and having suffered heavy losses and casualties, evacated the operational region.

1,100 Iraqi Casualties
LD201042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1026 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Iran, please pay attention. Following the disgraceful defeat of the Ba'thist Zionist enemy in the "Fath-8" operational theater, the brave combatants of Islam destroyed enemy forces and inflicted heavy losses and casualties.

During the operation, more than 1,100 Saddamist forces were killed or injured. Thirty-five light and semi-heavy vehicles, three 155-mm and 122-mm guns, seven mortar-launchers, two (?DShK) and two four-barrelled anti-aircraft guns were destroyed.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique
LD201336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] A communique has been issued today by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for joint operations by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: O Islamic ummah and the selfless Muslim nation. The Islamic warriors continued their epic-making and glorious ventures by beginning the "Fath-8" guerrilla operations yesterday, under the codename "O Prophet of God," 150 km deep inside Iraqi territory in the northern part of Al-Mawsil Province. They succeeded in dealing heavy blows and inflicting losses on the forces of the Zionist regime ruling in Baghdad.

In the course of the operations, launched in response to recent evil acts by the Zionist enemy in bombing Kurdish villages in northern Iraq with chemical bombs, as well as in support of the struggles by the Muslim people of that country by the forces under the command of Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and composed of the airborne brigade forces as well as the Muslim Mountain Division of Kurdistan in Iraq [Lashkar-e Esalmi-ye Kordestan-e Eraq], the Islamic forces attained all their predetermined objectives throughout the operational axes.

During the operation, the Iraqi town of Atrush, north of Al-Mawsil Province, the most important regional military base of the Ba'thist regime, whence repressive measures against the people of the liberated quarters of northern Iraq had been guided, was subjected to suprise onslaughts by the Islamic combatants, despite three large, solid fortress protecting it.

Following a fierce engagement, the Islamic forces entered the town, controlling it and the roads leading to it for 7 hours. Theydestroyed the important centers of the town, including the security headquarters, the telecommunications center, and the Ba'th Party headquarters, as well as the Popular Mobilization Militia headquarters, and the governor's building. The machine-

gun and artillery emplacements at Atrush were also attacked and all guns and equipment of the Zionist enemy were destroyed.

In continuation of the operations, the three fortresses around the town, as well as regional military posts, were totally destroyed following the attack and intense fire by the Islamic combatants, who killed and injured or captured the personnel therein. Furthermore, the important fortress of (Kanika), 9 km northeast of Atrush, from which 15 military posts had been guided, was attacked by the Islamic ions forces, who destroyed the fortress, killing and injuring many of the enemy.

Following these blows, the forces of the Zionist enemy deployed two battalions of the Special Forces and another group of its mercenaries, attempting to confront the Islamic combatants, but their futile move was soundly beaten and many of the Ba'thists were killed or injured.

In the course of the victorious "Fath-8" operations, more than 1,200 of the enemy forces were killed or injured, and more than 40 outposts and bases of the enemy were destroyed, as well as 35 light and heavy vehicles, an ammunition dump, a number of vehicles carrying ammunition, 3 155-mm and 120-mm guns, 7 mortar-launchers, 2 DShKs, and 2 anti-aircraft guns. A considerable quantity of weapons and ammunition, including light and mid to heavy weapons were captured intact by the Islamic combatants. Also, a number of enemy personnel were captured, of whom 32 have been evacuated to the rear of the fronts in the liberated quarters of the Iraqi Kurdistan.

300 Iraqi Casualties in Majnun

LD201325 Tehran IRNA in English 1315 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text]Tehran, July 20, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran launched an amphibious operations against Iraqi troops in the western Majnun Islands Sunday night, killing or wounding over 300 enemy soldiers and destroying scores of bunkers, machine guns and mortar launchers.

Announcing the above, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reported on Monday that the Iranian combatants broke through the numerous Iraqi booby trapped obstacles and barbed wire fences, advancing two kms into enemy positions and capturing three fortified embankments. An Iraqi battalion was totally routed in the amphibious operations, the report concluded.

NEPAL

FRG Chancellor Arrives; Met by Prime Minister

LD191415 Hamburg DPA in German 1334 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Kathmandu (DPA) — On his Asian trip, Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl today arrived on a 2-day visit to the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal, which is one of the poorest countries in the world. At Kathmandu Airport, the chancellor was welcomed with military honors in the presence of Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha. Kohl arrived from the PRC, where he had held talks during the past week at Beijing and Lhasa, and had carried out a full touring program on the "Roof of the World."

Political talks, in which Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein and Peter von Wuerzen, state secretary of the Federal Economics Ministry, will be involved, start on Monday. [passage omitted]

Kohl's Arrival Detailed

BK191501 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr Helmut Kohl and Mrs Kohl were accorded a warm and enthusiastic welcome on arrival in Kathmandu this evening on a 3-day official visit to Nepal. As the distinguished visitors alighted from the special aircraft, Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha warmly received them at Tribhuvan International Airport. Chancellor and Mrs Kohl arrived in Kathmandu today on the first ever visit to this kingdom after completing their visit to China and the Tibet autonomous region. A contingent of the Royal Nepal Army presented a guard of honor to Chancellor Kohl as the 19-gun salute boomed in the air. As the distinguished guests walked to welcome [words indistinct] offered the bouquets in traditional national Nepali welcome.

Also present at the airport to welcome the distinguished guests were the chief justice, Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament] chairman, the chairman of the Rajya Sabha Standing Committee, ministers, heads of the constitutional bodies, high-ranking officials, the Federal Republic German ambassador, and officials of the German Embassy.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD200842 Hamburg DPA in German 0550 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Text] Kathmandu (DPA) — To start his political talks with the Nepalese leadership, Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl met Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha on Monday in Kathmandu. Kohl has been staying in the Himalayan Kingdom since Sunday, after the conclusion of his Chinese trip. He will also be received by King Birendra today. The chancellor presented the head of government with a cheque for 50,000 marks for the victims of the latest flooding.

During a meal given by Shrestha for the German guest, the chancellor championed a fair balance between north and south. He assured Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world, of continuing close cooperation in overcoming its problems.

In the morning, Kohl had laid a wreath at the national monument. Afterward, he and the delegation accompanying him toured the former royal palace and temple area.

During his China stay, Kohl refused a talk with the Panchen Lama, one of the religious leaders of the Tibetans. The Panchen Lama lives in Beijing and is deputy chairman of the National People's Congress there. As became known on Monday on the fringes of the chancellor's visit to Nepal, the possibility of such a meeting had been sounded out by the Chinese side before the Asian trip, but had been rejected by the Federal Government. It was said that Bonn did not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of Tibet. At the same time, reference was made to the fact that the chancellor had not met the Dalai Lama, either. The latter is spiritual and secular head of the Tibetans, lives in India, and frequently visits Europe.

Promises Further Support

LD201319 Hamburg DPA in German 1217 GMT 20 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Kathmandu (DPA) — Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl has promised the Kingdom of Nepal further support from the Federal Republic.

In a talk with Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha, as well as in speeches to the parliament and at an official banquet, the chancellor, who is in the Himilayan kingdom's capital, today gave an assurance that Bonn wishes to help Nepal — one of the poorest developing countries — in the future.

In the presence of Kohl and Shrestha, a financial aid agreement for 25 million marks was signed by economic cooperation minister Hans Klein and by the Nepalese finance minister. The major part of this aid is intended for a dam.

Kohl also handed over a document for 200,000 marks for the restoration of a building housing a historical collection in Bhaktapur, and for two study places in architecture and preservation of monuments. In the name of the German Red Cross, the chancellor also handed over a cheque for 20,000 marks for the victims of the latest floods. [passage omitted]

In an exchange of views with the prime minister, Kohl said that the Federal Republic, as a rich country, feels itself morally obliged to help the poorer countries. German experts need to examine how Nepal could expand its range of products.

At the moment, 95 percent of Nepalese exports to the Federal Republic consist of carpets.

Tomorrow Kohl and his delegation are to tour the German-funded renovation program for the mediaeval town of Bhaktapur. In the evening, they fly back to the Federal Republic.

Junejo Links Karachi Bombing to Afghan Policy

BK171004 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has instructed all concerned organizations to spare no effort in providing relief to the people affected by the bomb blasts in Karachi on Tuesday. Addressing a crowded news conference in Karachi last night, he said the provincial government has been directed to draw up a plan for providing compensation and relief to those affected. They have also been asked to prepare full reports of damage to shops and houses so that adequate compensation can be given to the people. The prime minister also announced that he has instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive plan of action for the rehabilitation of families whose breadwinners have been killed in the bomb blasts. The prime minister announced that an emergency center will be set up in Karachi at a cost of 7 crore rupees to deal with the emergency situation.

Reaffirming his determination to launch a full-fledged campaign against terrorism, the prime minister called upon the people to cooperate with the elected government in eliminating the menace of terrorism which needs to be dealt with at the national level.

He announced that a special committee headed by Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif has already prepared a draft law for the elimination of terrorism and it will be introduced in the National Assembly at its next session. The draft law will facilitate the speedy trial of terrorism cases and special tribunals set up for this purpose will conduct hearings every day. If any criminal is sentenced to death by these tribunals, he will be hanged in public. The prime minister reiterated his resolve not to allow the nefarious plots of antinational elements to succeed and added that this task will be accomplished with the fullest assistance and cooperation of the people. The frequency of these bomb blasts are the work of Pakistan's enemies who do not want to see democracy flourishing in the country.

The prime minister said investigations into the bomb blasts in various parts of the country are in progress. The reason for these blasts may be Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan. The possibility of the involvement of Indian subversive elements in these blasts also cannot be ruled out. However, it will be clear only after the investigations as to who is involved in the bomb blasts.

Answering a question, the prime minister said he has instructed officials to closely observe the movement of foreign nationals living in the country. Foreigners, he said, will have to observe the law of the land. Answering another question, he said measures have been tightened to control illegal arms and ammunition in Karachi.

The prime minister highly praised social welfare organizations and Karachi residents for the manner in which they have provided relief and assistance to the affected people. He said the government is duty-bound to protect the life and property of the people who should identify the subversive elements and keep a close watch on suspected persons.

The prime minister regretted that certain political elements have tried to make political capital out of this tragic situation. Answering a question, Mohammad Khan Junejo said he is always ready for talks with political parties, but not necessarily under present conditions.

Referring to his visit to Japan, the prime minister described it as very successful. He said he held wide-ranging talks with the Japanese prime minister and other leaders and is confident that his visit will mark the beginning of a new era in Pakistan-Japan friendship that will promote cooperation in all fields. The prime minister said his Japanese counterpart highly appreciated the democratic process in Pakistan. About the imbalance in bilateral trade, Mohammad Khan Junejo said from now on joint efforts will be made to improve the situation.

Junejo Greets Zhao Ziyang En Route From Japan

BK170910 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] While overflying Chinese territory on his way home from Japan yesterday, the prime minister sent a message of good wishes to his Chinese counterpart, Zhao Ziyang, describing Pakistan-China friendship as an important factor in the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Mohammad Khan Junejo said Zhao Ziyang's recent visit to Pakistan has further promoted mutual understanding and he is confident that bilateral relations will grow further in the years to come.

Interior Minister Says PRC Condemns Bomb Blasts

BK180750 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] China has strongly condemned the bomb blasts in Karachi and has expressed its deep condolences and sympathy to the Government of Pakistan over the killing of innocent people. This was stated by Federal Interior Minister Wasim Sajjad who returned to Islamabad last night from Beijing, cutting short his visit due to the Karachi bomb blasts. He said that after hearing the regrettable news of the bomb blasts, the Chinese leaders, including the deputy prime minister and several ministers, expressed their deep sorrow and sympathy. He added that the Chinese people fully share the grief of the Pakistani people.

The interior minister said legislation is now being prepared to give exemplary punishment to miscreants. He said no Pakistani could even think of participating in such activities. He said the cause of these blasts is due to Pakistan's principled policy on Afghanistan.

Suppression of Terrorist Activities Act Amended

BK191658 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] An ordinance has been promulgated to amend the Suppression of Terrorist Activities Special Court's Act 1975. It comes into force from last Thursday [16 July]. It empowers the Special Court, constituted under the act, to try a person for offense punishable under Section 302 murder or Section 307 attempted murder of Pakistan Penal Code if it is committed in

the course of the same [words indistinct] in which an offense under the Pakistan Penal Code specified in the schedule to the said act or under the Explosive Substances Act 1908 or the Arms Ordinance 1965 is committed, or in addition to or in convolution with such offenses.

Passports, ID Cards To Be Issued After Verification

BK191535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] The government has decided not to issue international passports and national identity cards without prior verification. The action is intended to keep foreign or [internal] troublemakers from misusing this facility. The decision has been made in view of increasing terrorist activities of the antinational elements.

President Calls For Political Solution of Kashmir

BK191633 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 19 Jul 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Kashmir is a political dispute and it should be solved politically. He was addressing a big public meeting in Muzaffarabad this afternoon organized to mark the passing of the resolution this day 40 years ago in Srinagar for accession of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan. The president recalled that the resolve of the Muslims of South Asia to get a separate homeland for themselves was also a resolution passed in 1940. He said the Pakistan Government has no apologetic attitude toward the Kashmir issue. He has raised this question at almost every international forum he attended. He expressed the hope that current phases of the efforts for the solution of the Kashmir dispute would pass with success.

General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Azad Kashmir is a strong bastion for the defense of Pakistan. This bastion would not be allowed to be weakened.

Bangladesh's Ershad Arrives on Brief Stopover

BK181310 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Karachi this afternoon for a brief stopover. He was received at the airport by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Also present at the airport were the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; the Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Tabbani; the chief minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah; members of the Sind Cabinet; members of National Assembly; members of provincial assembly; and members of the diplomatic corps. The Bangladesh president is on his way back from the Yemen Arab Republic.

Holds Talks With Ziaul Haq

BK181620 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and President Hussain Mohammad Ershad held talks in Karachi this evening on regional and internal issues and matters of bilateral interest. They held similar views on the wide range of issues. The talks focused particularly on increasing cooperation in building up the SAARC which could promote economic progress and prosperity in the area. Both Pakistan and Bangladesh are members of SAARC, OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] and NAM [Nonaligned Movement].

The two leaders hoped that mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh will be increased in the years to come.

Talking to newsmen before his departure for Dhaka, President Ershad described his talks with the Pakistan president as meaningful and fruitful. He said the warm reception accorded to him and his entourage was a clear indication of the cordial brotherly relations existing between the two countries.

The Bangladesh president expressed deep shock and grief over the loss of life in recent bomb blasts in Karachi. He condemned the acts of terrorism and prayed to Almighty Allah to give strength to the grieved families and the people of Pakistan to fight against such terrorism effectively and with determination.

He hoped that the prolonged war between Iran and Iraq will come to an end with the efforts of OIC Peace Committee. He said, like Pakistan, Bangladesh being a member of the committee, has been making wholehearted (?struggle) to bring the conflict to an end. [passage omitted]